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# USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

VOLKOGONOV ON PHENOMENON OF HEROISM

Moscow ZNAMYA in Russian No 11, Nov 84 pp 172-185

[Article by Lt Gen D.A. Volkogonov, doctor of philosophical sciences, professor:  
"The Phenomenon of Heroism"]

[Text] In Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Great Victory

Almost 4 decades separate us from that unforgettable day when the Banner of Victory, hoisted by a Soviet soldier, began fluttering over subdued Berlin. Time has altered the former battlefields to an unrecognizable degree. The scars from the trenches have healed over, and the ashes of cities incinerated by the war have disappeared. New generations of Soviet people have grown up-- sons and grandsons of those who achieved the Victory for us. And the further 9 May 1945 recedes from our own day, the more clearly we see the importance of the Soviet people's historic feat.

That feat is our greatest spiritual possession. It is in each of us. It is always with us. Historical research works, novels, poems and songs have been written and are still being written about it. Streets and ships have been named and monuments have been erected in its honor, and multicolored salutes flash on holidays to honor it. It is a part of the destiny, frequently tragic, of those near and dear to us. The heroic still lives in the glory, the traditions and the memory. We are not surprised at what the Soviet people accomplished during the 1,418 days of the war. We know that victory is not a gift of fortune but a priceless reward which has been earned and paid for with much suffering.

Those who have a different view of the past, although not downplaying the heroic, attempt to place it into the realm of a mystical Russian spirit, to depict it as an enigmatic phenomenon, as something irrational and incomprehensible. British writer N. Brown concluded that the heroism demonstrated by Leningrad's defenders is beyond understanding. American sociologist B. Cousins stated the following in his book, "Portraits of Heroes": "The heroism of the Russians during World War II is frequently a mystery. How could a simple soldier voluntarily cover a gun-port with his body? According to our standards, this is merely a poor human being and scarcely a believer. So just what prompted thousands of Russians to sacrifice themselves"?

Indeed, he who measures against different "standards" than ours could hardly understand what elevates an individual to the highest manifestation of his

intellect, his morality and will. Although human life begins at birth and ends at death, it is not like a "ring of fate," but more like a parabola whose vertex is defined by a moment, an hour, sometimes even years of spiritual flight crowned with a feat.

1

Frequently, when we speak of the image of our time, it comes to us from the pages of newspapers and magazines, from movie and television screens, in the form of elegant silhouettes of spaceships, dynamic shapes of supersonic airliners, ballistic missiles, various automatic and cybernetic devices. And this is correct, if we are speaking of the scientific and technological image of our era, the essence of which consists of the transition from capitalism to socialism. The firm stride of history clearly reflects its main trend--mankind's advance toward communism. This trend is realized through a struggle of antagonistic classes, a conflict of world outlooks, will and intellects. And the heroic principle has played and continues to play an enormous role in this struggle.

Stefan Zweig called heroic achievements "mankind's starry hours." Heroic achievements are determined not just by the nature and the substance of social relations. Social development is accompanied by numerous diverse conflicts. Some of them can only be resolved with heroic actions by the masses, classes or individuals. This is especially true during crucial periods in history. Hegel said that heroes are the ones who "pioneer a new world." Social and moral activeness in pursuit of progressive goals and going beyond the ordinary, "mediocre" standards of behavior--this is the foundation on which the act of heroism is performed. Heroism is essentially a special, higher form of social activeness of progressive import. When it exhibits such activeness, the individual (group of people, team, class or nation) assumes completely different social responsibility and moral commitments than in ordinary, everyday situations. The individual thereby achieves moral freedom. The heroic is ordinarily expressed in the form of a feat, and the individual performing it becomes a hero in the common mind of a people, a nation or a class.

The heroic act has a specific structure, for it is not just a process but a result as well. The crowning point of the heroic is a feat. An individual sometimes spends a lifetime working his way up to a feat. Perhaps constant readiness to perform a feat is also a feat? It all depends upon the specific circumstances and motives and upon the magnitude of the counteracting forces. The heroic act is based on firm conviction, noble feelings, will and knowledge. An individual's preparedness to perform a feat, a heroic act, is determined mainly by his ideological stamina, by the moral maturity of his intellect and the strength of his feelings. The performance of the feat is based more on volitional qualities, however.

The logic of a heroic act can be depicted in the following manner. An individual is profoundly aware of the possible consequences of the step he is about to take (although the awareness sometimes lasts only an instant). This process is ordinarily accompanied by powerful feelings such as patriotism, duty, pride, hatred, honor or fighting urge. The truly heroic act is that guided by communal motivation which has become personal motivation. Ambition also motivates courageous acts. If such acts are contrary to the public interest, then the ambition turns into vainglory and the heroism is usually a spurious and ostentatious thing.

Following the perception, the inner decision is shaped: The objective of the act and the means of achieving it are defined. And finally, there is the aware, powerful act of will, in which all spiritual and physical strengths and faculties are exercised in order to implement the decision. In other words, the heroic is a dialectical unity of the spirit and practical action. The moral-political predominates on the spiritual side, the volitional in the practical action.

A heroic act is always preceded by a heroic choice, always involves special, extraordinary circumstances in which maximum exertion of effort is required to implement the choice. One might say that this choice requires not only volitional resolve, but also valorous thinking and moral daring. The correct, courageous choice permits the individual to avoid becoming a puppet of fate with the strings pulled by circumstances. The heroic choice and the heroic act therefore constitute one of the highest forms of the individual's moral freedom. It consists precisely in the individual making a choice which conforms to the common need and which he is capable of implementing. This frequently requires strength of will, thinking and feelings at the extreme, outermost limit of human capabilities.

The feat performed by Captain Yuriy Kozlovskiy, military pilot, is well known. His fighter's engine stalled during a training flight. He was issued an order from the ground to eject. His landing was a tragic one. The pilot fell onto sharp rocks and suffered compound fractures of both legs. Around him were unfeeling hills, the night, silence and extreme cold. Kozlovskiy applied tourniquets to his legs to stop the bleeding. He decided to crawl in the direction in which he thought there should be a road. Several times he saw helicopters searching for him, but they did not spot him....

Since our school years, all of us have been familiar with the astonishing "Povest' o Nastoyashchem Cheloveke" [Story About a Real Man] by B. Polevoy. Demonstrating enormous strength of spirit and iron will, Yuriy Kozlovskiy duplicated the feat described in it. For almost 2 days and nights he fought the pain and fatigue, the bitter cold, despair and death.... He was not simply fighting for his life; he was fulfilling his duty. The doctors later said that he had done the impossible by making his way to a road in conditions in which survival was inconceivable. Yuriy Kozlovskiy survived and triumphed. He triumphed over circumstances, tragedy and disaster. His main weapon was perhaps his will. This resilience, invisible, hidden from sight, gave him the strength for invincible action. Had the pilot given in to despair and simply waited for assistance, he would have perished. A strong mind and passionate feelings multiplied by determination make it possible to do things which appear impossible, inconceivable, incredible.

While the extent to which an individual is prepared to perform a feat is determined mainly by his ideological conviction, the heroic act itself is based on determination. When we mentally assess people around us, we can see that those who have done something real, something noble and elevated in life have accomplished it not just as a result of their abilities and talent or because of circumstances, but because of strong determination. And the so-called failures are ordinarily not untalented people, but simply people without will and morally adrift. The path of life traveled by such people is paved with the rubble of



unfulfilled plans, aspirations and hope. Will is essentially nothing other than the muscles of the mind and the senses. The strong-willed person will achieve that which somewhat irresolute, weak-willed people will not achieve. V.I. Lenin wrote the following: "It is better to have two or three energetic and totally devoted people than a dozen dawdlers."<sup>1</sup> Everyone is strong to the extent that he can overcome his weaknesses. Weakness is just as dangerous as any foreign hostile force. The heroic is unattainable without the will.

It is difficult to perform a feat today without a high level of professional skill, however. It is only natural that the concepts "steadfast" and "courageous" are inseparably linked with the concepts "skilled" and "knowledgeable" in our time. Well-known test pilot M. Galay has stated with respect to this that knowledge, ability and know-how sometimes not only bolster courage, but actually take over part of its functions. Skill and competence increase an individual's confidence in his own abilities and make his actions more effective. One cannot imagine a pilot and cosmonaut, a breeding expert, a construction engineer, an architect, a doctor or an innovative worker who does not possess a large amount of general and specialized knowledge. The high level of activeness which presages a feat is hardly possible without this kind of knowledge.

We can see that the heroic is actually a special manifestation of the active facet of an individual, a group of people, a team or a class. The distinguishing feature of the heroic act is that it is always a struggle: against an enemy, the unknown, stagnation, circumstances, an ailment, crime, mediocrity, archaic traditions, danger and so forth. The struggle ordinarily demands maximum exertion of intellectual, moral and physical effort. A hero is first of all a fighter, a fighter for truth and freedom, a fighter against evil. Therein lies the "secret" of the heroic, which can be understood by anyone capable of selflessly demonstrating his feelings, his thought, his will and knowledge for the good of people.

What kind of acts, behavior and achievements can be considered heroic? How do we separate true heroism from false? Who is perceived in the common or individual mind as a hero who has performed a feat? Questions such as these have long troubled people. In each era the answers have conformed to the outlook of the dominant order. After all, people are always tied to the galley of their time.

In the bourgeois understanding the essence and the basis of heroism has to do primarily with its exclusiveness, extraordinariness and uniqueness. Personal bravery and irrationality of behavior as the psychological basis, in the thinking of bourgeois theoreticians, define the essence of heroic actions. When the theory of "deheroization" "does not stand up," they resort to a metaphysical formula for defining the heroic as an exceptional act performed at the bidding of fate. Bourgeois writer J. Fest, who has published books on "heroes of the 20th century"--Hitler, Churchill, Marcuse, Adenauer and others like them--persistently adheres to the idea that the real hero is unrecognizable, since he is several orders above the level of average man." The bourgeois philosophers and historians contrive to dress in the raiment of heroes, people for whom it is far too heavy. In his novel "Revolt of the Military," bourgeois



writer Hans Kirst, for example, maintains that the participants in the anti-Hitler Putsch on 20 July 1944 are "true of German history," "selfless heroes of the Resistance," "spokesman for the spirit of the nation." This is not true at all, though. The Putsch was nothing other than a specific form of crisis in upper circles of the fascist regime. The Nazis--yes, the Nazis--motivated by fear of the future and a desire to preserve powerful imperialist Germany and save themselves in the face of impending catastrophe, made an attempt to rise up against their cannibalistic, arrogant and aloof leader. The Putsch was not "an expression of the heroic principle" and did not speed up the fall of the Hitlerite Reich, as certain bourgeois historians maintain. Kipling wrote some wise words: "The strength of the advancing night was already broken, although it was not threatened by any sort of dawn before the hour appointed for the dawn...." Hitlerism's night was broken by the might of the Soviet Army and the conspirators had nothing to do with it. That is all there is to it.

It should be stated that actions which do not have a progressive social aim have nothing to do with the heroic. Otherwise, brazen criminals, adventurers and so forth should be called heroes, as is frequently the case in the capitalist society. "Mere" uncommonness cannot be the criterion for identifying a deed, an act or a phenomenon as heroic.

We remember the astonishing dialogue which took place in the air between Soviet military pilots Boris Kapustin and Yuriy Yanov. Circumstances faced them with a grim choice: to abandon the falling aircraft, in which case it would crash into residential buildings in Berlin, or to divert a mortal danger away from the people at the price of their lives. The magnetic recording made at the ground station dispassionately confirms that there was no hesitation. The two Soviet fightingmen had been prepared for just such a choice all their lives, although the moment of decision arrived with tragic unexpectedness.

It is not merely the exceptional, extraordinary nature of the deeds and actions of individual people, teams or popular masses, but primarily their total conformity with the main ideas of our era, the ideals of communism, which define the essence of the heroic. We refer to as heroic only those bold and courageous acts which go beyond the "average" standards of behavior and have socially significant objectives. Selflessness and the conscious mobilization of all spiritual, moral and physical strengths to achieve a specific goal should be glorified by noble plans and lofty ideals.

Public acknowledgement of a heroic act's significance, its value and exceptional nature is an important component of the criterion. This recognition is frequently not just an assessment, but also the stimulus, the motive. The heroic act is essentially one of the means of expanding the boundaries of man's capabilities in his social and moral behavior. Basic propriety, honor and loyalty to duty cannot be the criterion of a heroic act, however, since these are normal standards for communal living.

The heroic has a place in all areas of human existence, but it is manifested most conspicuously in just wars, especially a war such as the Soviet people's Great Patriotic War for their freedom and independence.

U.S. leaders openly state that they are attempting to destroy socialism as a sociopolitical system and are constantly preparing for a nuclear war in the hope of "gaining the upper hand." This situation demands enormous political courage of the higher Soviet leadership in order to pursue the struggle to preserve peace on earth. The demonstration of force, blackmail, threats and growing military preparations cannot daunt the Soviet Union's solid determination, its resolve to struggle to prevent war, to be prepared to frustrate all of imperialism's aggressive creep. This determination to rescue peace is based not just on the economic and military capability, the political will or the humane principles of socialism, but also on the spiritual preparedness of the Soviet people and their leaders to demonstrate a high level of heroism and courage in the defense of the socialist state. In the situation of this terrible conflict, a striving for peace on the part of the popular masses and the growing danger of war, the preparedness itself is an important factor contributing to the preservation of stability.

The Soviet Armed Forces are in a constant state of combat readiness and give a potential enemy no opportunity to carry out a preventive strike with impunity. The military work is not outwardly remarkable, but both its essence and its significance are profoundly heroic. The higher our state of combat readiness, the less likelihood there is that an aggressor will decide to engage in a nuclear adventure. The decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee, "On the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet People's Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," stated that the material foundation of our security rests on the Soviet people's profound conviction as to the correctness and the invincibility of socialism, and this conviction stems also from our people's heroic history.

Socialist military heroism is the highest form of combat activeness in an armed struggle, in which the individual, the military team and the people perform selfless acts going beyond the ordinary, commonplace standards of behavior for the sake of victory over the enemy. There are conflicts in warfare which can frequently not be resolved with available means and possibilities other than through a heroic act. During the last war there were a great many critically conflicting situations produced by the element of surprise, as an example. An unexpected attack by the enemy always places the victim into a disadvantageous, critical situation, makes especially great demands of the fightingman's spiritual strength and requires that they be prepared to perform feats.

...On that memorable day at the beginning of the war the 11th Outpost of the 90th Vladimir-Volyn Frontier Detachment, like many others, took the enemy's first strike. In that difficult situation Lieutenant Ye. Utkin, outpost chief, and Political Instructor V. Kaftarov, who were in the thick of the battle, organized a rebuff for superior forces of the aggressor. The officers' personal heroism inspired the frontier troops, and they remained true to their military duty to the end. The following entry has been preserved in archival documents: "None of the fightingmen or commanders of the 11th Outpost showed up at the commandant's office or the detachment. All of the personnel were dead." Behind those lines lies the infinite courage of fightingmen who performed a military feat. It is impossible to accomplish a feat "all of a sudden." One has to be prepared.

A situation of surprise makes special, increased demands of the individual, and the moral potential of his preparedness must always be at the necessary level.

Or take another example of a real conflict. It occurred as a result of a disadvantageous balance of strength. It was vitally important to perform the mission, but the physical and material capabilities were lacking. On 26 March 1944 a landing group commanded by Senior Lieutenant K.F. Ol'shanskiy and consisting of 55 seamen and 12 Red Army men, was set ashore at dawn near the city of Nikolayev and captured a bridgehead. During a period of 2 days and nights the handful of brave men fought off 18 attacks and destroyed around 700 Hitlerites and several tanks. They accomplished the mission assigned them by the command element. All of the members of the landing force were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, 55 of them posthumously. The impossible was made possible, but it cost the lives of most of the group. Extreme, maximum mobilization of spiritual, physical and moral strengths made it possible to enlarge the borders of the possible and to perform a collective military feat. The landing force was possessed by one idea--to hold out. The objective aspect of heroism and the need to do the heroic thus lies in the resolution of especially acute conflicts arising in the course of warfare.

Heroism as a specific manifestation of social activeness in the resolution of especially difficult conflicts in the last war took the form of a sudden outpouring, as well as the form of what V.I. Lenin referred to as mass, ordinary work. In certain cases the heroic, especially in the form of the sudden outpouring, requires the heroism of self-sacrifice. Heroism in the form of a sudden outpouring by groups or individuals ordinarily occurs in extremely difficult situations, when an objective need and a great and striking idea unite people and rouses them to accomplish a feat. The importance of the sudden heroic outpouring lies primarily in the fact that it becomes the source, the beginning of a mass movement and makes the extraordinary ordinary. V.I. Lenin noted that a turning point in the mood and behavior of the masses is achieved as a result of heroic initiative, which is frequently the crucial factor. We know of feats of Soviet fightingmen, who threw themselves carrying grenades beneath the tracks of enemy tanks or covered gun-ports with their bodies, of pilots who performed ramming maneuvers. During a battle with fascist tanks, Seamen and Komsomol member M.A. Panikakha was throwing bottles of flaming liquid at them. When he missed the last time, a bullet struck the bottle. Flames immediately engulfed Panikakha. Overcoming the pain, he leaped from the trench with another bottle in his hand, threw himself at the fascist tank and set it afire. This is the heroism of the sudden combat outpouring, the highest flight of the mind, maximum intensification of moral senses and extreme mobilization of the will. This is heroism of the moment, as it were.

The heroic outpouring frequently occurs in a situation of mortal danger, of risk to one's life. It is not a blind flare-up of senses and will which ignore the actual circumstances, not unthinking bravery and not unreasoned daring. The magnitude of the feat is measured by the depth of the motives, as well as by the size of the opposing forces. Very frequently a heroic act involves a risk not just of suffering failure, but even of perishing. The individual overcome by a sudden outpouring ordinarily thinks of his own safety least of all. Rational calculation is alien to him, and the need for a heroic move is forcefully dictated by a higher idea, by patriotic feelings.



...It was during the last days of the war. The place was Berlin. The massive, dome-topped building of the Reichstag loomed up in the smoke and burned ruins ahead of our fightingmen. Battalion commander Neustroyev recalled those days: "We needed the Banner as never before. Someone obtained a piece of red material. He gave the strip of cloth to Junior Sergeant Petr Pyatnitskiy and said: "The men are lying in the square. The Reichstag is near. Rouse the men. We are going to attack...." Petr jumped from a window into a crater and crawled to the line. He then stood up and grabbed the cloth. There were now 10, 15, 20 people around him.... He dropped the crimson cloth just before he reached the steps. He had been killed. The banner was raised by Petr Shcherbina.... A fierce battle immediately flared up once more, but regimental scouts Meliton Kantariya and Mikhail Yegorov had soon raised the Banner of our victory over the Reichstag dome. This was on the 1,410th day of the war."

Fascism was destroyed in its lair. And behind its destruction lay the profound justness of a people fighting for their liberation, the humane, international mission of the liberators, and the infinite bravery, courage and valor of millions of Soviet people.

Let us discuss the valor separately. Valor, which is in a certain sense a component of the feat performed as a result of an outpouring, plays an important role in the neutralizing and blocking of fear. Valor always involves contempt for cowardliness, pusillanimity and weak will. Fear is a mental state which anyone can experience--fear of the unknown, of terrible danger or mortal risk. The valorous person, however, is just that because he is capable of suppressing all feelings of fear, of performing an act determined and bold to the highest degree. Such an individual is prepared to accomplish a feat. It is with good reason that the Soviet people value the medal "For Valor" so highly. This soldier's medal is awarded to those who have looked death in the face, who have performed desperately daring acts to accomplish the mission "no matter what." The medal "For Valor" is worn by those who fought bravely right at the forward edge, who know what it is like to have bullets whistle past centimeters away from one's temple, those who recall what it is like to enter into an attack under an avalanche of lead, those who have experienced the burden of running through to enemy trenches.

Colonel (Retired) Ivan Andrianovich Astashev, a war veteran, resides in Moscow. He was a private throughout most of the war, but he later became a sergeant in the combat ranks of a rifle company. The term "forward edge" was always a literal one for him. Nothing but fascists were ahead. Among his front line decorations are some which he especially values: four "For Valor" medals. Each of them was the crowning point of a year of war for him. It just happened that way. Ivan Aleksandrovich told me the following: "At that time we were not thinking of decorations. We were simply fighting. There was no more specific mission during the entire war than to rout the enemy. And I thank the people for the fact that they did not forget those who accomplished it."

The heroic is also manifested in the form of mass, ordinary work, which is outwardly less brilliant and impressive than the heroism involved in the outpouring. These forms of heroism are not in opposition. On the contrary, they supplement each other. The character of the people is inherent in the collective heroism expressed in mass, ordinary work. During all the turning points

in history, when the state was shaken by social storms and when conflicts reached unprecedented acuteness, the people ordinarily proved to be up to the historic tasks. The heroic actions of Russia's laboring masses during the October Socialist Revolution, their struggle to overcome the devastation and create the foundations of a new society, their armed defense of the homeland and the building of developed socialism have carried the stamp of the popular genius. The importance of the results of the heroism of ordinary, mass, everyday work for the fate of the people is clearly apparent.

The heroism of mass, everyday work is especially vividly apparent in the people's struggle for the freedom and independence of the socialist homeland. It would be incorrect to think that during a war heroism is manifested only in the form of the outpouring. War itself is first of all, the difficult and mortally dangerous military labor of millions of people. At the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, for example, the heroic defense of strategically important facilities, cities and lines played a prominent role. The heroism of defense was a prolonged thing. The Brest Fortress fought more than 30 days, Leningrad--900, Sevastopol--250, Stalingrad--163, Moscow--more than 90, Odessa and Kiev--73 days. Each of the defensive operations, in which the fate of the homeland was determined, demanded maximum exertion of all spiritual and physical strengths from the participants. Among numerous other tasks, one of extraordinary importance was accomplished during the fighting, that of reorienting the communal mind from a defensive to an offensive outlook. Defense alone, even a heroic defense, does not win a war. This is only a transitional stage on the way to offensive operations, which cannot be carried out without effecting a large shift in the communal mind. The implanting of thoughts of a turning point in the communal mind, which evoked the highest degree of combat and social activeness, created the conditions necessary to accomplish the heroic, but this was during the offensive, the crucial form of warfare.

Each offensive operation is first of all extremely difficult work: thousands of kilometers of road left behind, rivers forced beneath a hail of lead, boggy swamps crossed, fierce attacks and inhuman fatigue, and finally, thousands and millions killed.... A total of 1,500 kilometers of communication and other trenches were dug, 1,160 command and observation posts were built, 11,000 artillery and mortar positions were set up, 10,000 dugouts were built, and so forth, as an example, during preparations for breaking through the Hitlerite defense from the Sandomierz staging area. It is difficult to imagine how much moral and physical effort and outwardly unnoticed heroism, without which the general victory would have been impossible, lies behind these figures. This was mass, day-to-day, group heroism. It is not surprising that the months and years spent at the front were the most memorable during the rest of their lives for most of those who lived to see beautiful Victory Day.

The capital of our homeland has paid tribute to the Soviet Armed Forces 347 times. Many formations were named after Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kiev, Sevastopol, Minsk, Kishinev, Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, Prague, Port Arthur, Kharbin.... This reflected a desire to immortalize the hero of the masses, the likes of which history had never known, just as it had never known such a bloody war.

Millions of soldiers, sailors, officers, generals and admirals were decorated for courage, valor and heroism with numerous orders and medals. The outstanding feats became a model for mass emulation. Aleksandr Matrosov's feat was



repeated by around 300 people, that of N.F. Castello by 74 pilots. More than 200 Soviet airmen such as Viktor Talalikhin rammed fascist aircraft in the air. A total of 11,603 of the most courageous and brave fightingmen were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union; 2,457 became full holders of the Order of Glory, and four of them--seaman P. Dubinda, soldier A. Aleshin, airman I. Drochenko and artilleryman N. Kuznetsov--were also made Heroes of the Soviet Union.

The war demanded countless sacrifices. The people knew this and went to their death en masse, when this was necessary, consciously and voluntarily. In his book "Zhivyye i mertvyye" [Living and the Dead], K. Simonov, one of our best chroniclers of the war, as an example, wrote that a lieutenant's life "was brief during the days of the offensive--an average of nine days and nights per brother from the commitment to the battle until they were wounded or killed...." The mortally dangerous military work was by its very nature profoundly heroic. A just war is the basis for heroic acts.

Well known American writer E. Meyer assesses heroism differently. In the novel "The Great War" (in which, incidentally, the USSR's part in the battle against fascism is mentioned only once), he asserts that all wars are an apotheosis of violence, endless killings and death. Heroism is inconceivable in a war: "So long as we not only permit the killing of man by man, but actually glorify and extoll it, we shall continue to suffer from bitterness and indignation, and no force can protect us against that."

The individual with a bourgeois outlook, even an honest one, is not in a position to understand that there are wars and there are wars. During its 206 years of existence the United States has engaged in around 200 unjust wars, most of which were undeclared. How could we speak of heroism, when the aggressors behaved as murderers, ravishers and occupiers in Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon and Grenada? The attempt is made to give them the aura of heroes, however. Addressing Congress on 26 January 1984, the American president felt that he could poeticize the "feat" of the Marines in Grenada. He cited as an example a certain Sergeant S. Trujillo from a battalion of Rangers as an example. By "destroying communists," he has "brought freedom to that small nation."

During the last war mass, everyday heroism was manifested not only at the front, but also in the rear. The party's slogan, "Everything For The Front, Everything For Victory!", became the standard for the life and work of every Soviet person. Things did not look good for us at the beginning of the war, of course. The enemy captured vast areas of our homeland, regions of great economic and defensive importance. Within an extremely short period of time the party organized and implemented an operation unprecedented in history--the transfer of many industrial enterprises, plants and factories to the nation's interior. A total of 1,523 enterprises, including 1,360 large war plants, were evacuated to the east during the first 5 months of the war alone. By the end of the first year of the war many of them were turning out military products, and the output rates were constantly growing.

Behind all of this lies the Herculean labor of millions of Soviet people--men, women, old people and adolescents--and intense work by the party. Fightingmen in the field army received everything necessary to combat the fascist invaders.

Suffice it to say that during the war our nation produced an average of more than 27,000 aircraft, around 24,000 tanks and self-propelled artillery pieces, and more than 24,000 field guns annually. Furthermore, our military equipment was better than that of the fascists. This reflected the enormous superiority of our economic and social system, the moral-political makeup of the Soviet people, their heroic and selfless nature. This nature accounts for the people's attitude toward socialism's new spiritual values, their selfless desire to accomplish the tasks set for them by history.

The war produced many examples of the heroic outpouring and mass, everyday heroism. It also produced many examples of selflessness as the ultimate factor in the achievement in victory. We have now come to the complex philosophical problem of life, death and immortality. There is probably no person who is not troubled by these eternal subjects.

Man is mortal. Ordinarily, however, he always wants to live as long as possible. He who has a scientific outlook understands that death too is an inseparable part of life. For him the loss of that which makes man an individual (honor, freedom, happiness, communication with people, creative labor, dignity and so forth) is the equivalent of moral death. In extreme circumstances (war and critical situations arising in daily life), however, physical death is a worthy response to that which could deprive him of the qualities of individuality. He who understands what real human life is can also establish the correct attitude toward death. At a moment of crucial choice, man certainly does not resort to philosophical abstractions. He feels intensely that life is multifaceted and infinite. It is a child's laughter and patches of sunlight on a mother's face, the whisper of raindrops and the weight of fatigue on one's shoulders, anticipation and hope, dedication and the struggle against baseness. In order for all others to have this sensation, however, circumstances sometimes demand the greatest price, one's life.

In a war, in extreme situations, the combat outpouring as a form of the heroic is frequently realized through self-sacrifice, the ultimate fulfillment of duty, when social activeness can only be manifested at the cost of one's life. Many situations requiring self-sacrifice arose during the Great Patriotic War: the need to hold a vitally important position or a crossing, to rescue a commander or comrades, to resort to a ramming maneuver as the only way to destroy an enemy aircraft, and so forth.

The following is a typical example. In July of 1943, the enemy was fiercely assaulting our positions with superior forces on one sector of the front. At a critical moment, when some of the fightingmen had flinched, when it seemed that the fascists would succeed in smashing our defense, Senior Sergeant S. Khirkov, company party organizer rose above the trench, carrying a grenade and a sub-machine gun, he rushed the enemy and drew the fightingmen behind him in a fierce counterattack. By being the first to stand up the party organizer was subjecting his life to mortal risk more than his comrades, but he understood that a turning point could only be achieved in the battle with a heroic example, one which would give the fightingmen new spiritual strength.

There is also another form of self-sacrifice. It comes from the fanatical defense of a false, blind faith, doomed by bitterness and religious morality (Japanese doomed to die, self-incinerating Buddhists and members of various fanatical sects, and others). In militaristic Japan, for example, the kamikaze pilots observed the feudal code of conduct of the samurai, Bushido, the essence of which is expressed in the very first sentence: "The life of a man is light as a feather, but duty to the emperor is heavier than a mountain." In the process of preparing the kamikaze pilots they were instilled with a fanatical faith in their divine mission. And they considered self-sacrifice to be their "highest destiny," ordered by the mikado and by God. Before the kamikazes, those human torpedos, took off, they were told: "You are now gods rid of earthly passions." The day before the flight, however, the "gods" were promoted to the next military rank, paid a large monetary reward and given an urn with symbolic dust to be sent to their families. A total of 2,778 kamikazes died during the last war. The military affect from the self-sacrifice of the kamikaze pilots was not great, but the very fact of their existence demonstrated that reactionary forces can prepare human material fanatically obedient to another's will by applying systematic pressure to the moral awareness and by means of a system of false ideological myths. Something similar occurred also in Hitler's Reich. By manipulating concepts of anti-communism and racism and by falsifying the history of their forefathers the Nazis had created a mindless robot, a cruel agent of evil will, by the beginning of the war.

The Marxist classics regard self-sacrifice and its occurrence under certain circumstances as an essential form of self-assertion by the individual.<sup>2</sup> For Marxism self-sacrifice only makes sense when it is performed so that life can triumph. Man is not locked within himself alone, after all, but is an aggregate of social relations. Voluntarily or involuntarily, deliberately or not so deliberately, he arrives at the idea that freedom of development for each is a condition for the development of all and consequently, the goals of the individual and of the society must coincide. Each individual's attitude toward his own life and death can therefore not be taken out of a social context. And those who realize this also realize that their life and death are linked in one way or another with the future, with the happiness of other people. Aware self-sacrifice involves an orientation toward the future. Therein lies its main philosophical meaning.

Despite all the tragedy involved, the socialist feat of self-sacrifice is an optimistic thing. This is demonstrated by the last letter from scout Zoya Kruglova, for example. She wrote her mother that after being executed by shooting, her body "would be behind the prison, beside a road in the city of Ostrov. It will be wearing my black wool dress, mama, which is now faded, the red knitted blouse you bought, and Russian boots. I am waiting to be shot. I have fulfilled my duty. I shall die, but I know what I am dying for...." Only a person who has achieved the highest level of moral freedom could behave in such a manner at a tragic moment. Only socialism develops people prepared to perform a feat for the common cause. V.I. Lenin wrote that only socialism can evoke in the working masses "the true heroism of self-sacrifice."<sup>3</sup>

At a critical moment Soviet people achieved a turning point in a battle or an engagement at the cost of their life. They were also loyal to their duty to the very end when in prison or encirclement. R. Zorge, D. Karbyshev and M. Dzhaliil' fought and died in incredibly difficult circumstances, not counting on



those in the homeland learning the truth about their final days. But during the most difficult and tragic moments, the individual does not want his life to have passed without a trace. Ambition not to be left in obscurity, a passionate desire to tell the homeland that one has been its loyal son to the very last breath, have been preserved for us in an inscription in the Odessa catacombs: "We are dying, but we are not surrendering," "Maobitskaya tetrad'" [Maobitskaya Notebook] by M. Dzhailil'....

On the moral level, a person can be as great as he wants to be, as great as the strength of his convictions. And in this desire to be useful to those around lies the essence of selflessness and self-sacrifice. They attest to the richness of the individual's spiritual potential, to its preparedness for extremely resolute acts for the triumph of noble ideals. This is the way it was in the last war. A correct understanding of the meaning of life, of the fact that it is a part of the society's life permit the individual also to make the correct choice at a critical moment when something greater than his future alone is being decided. The significance of life is assessed not by its length, after all, but by the degree to which it is in harmony with the many ideas of the era.

3

V.I. Lenin delivered a speech at the 3rd All-Russian Congress of Textile Industry Workers on 19 April 1920, in which he made the following statement: "Russia must be turned into an enormous labor army with /a heroic awareness/ of self-sacrifice by everyone for the common cause, the liberation of the workers"<sup>3</sup> (set off by me--D.V.). The Soviet people have a heroic awareness, a fact borne out by their glorious history. The heroic awareness as an expression of the Soviet people's constant readiness and capacity for exhibiting the highest level of social activeness in the class struggle, in hard work, scientific quest and the defense of socialism is an inseparable component of our society's spiritual life.

A readiness to perform a feat is inconceivable without a profound conviction that it is essential. Sometime back, some young pathfinders found a rifle shell case near Vyazma, which contained a note written by Private Aleksandr Vinogradov. It was learned that he had died soon after placing the note into the shell case. "There were 12 of us sent to the Minsk Highway to prevent tanks from passing. And we have held out staunchly. Now only three of us are left: Kolya, Volodya and I, Aleksandr. The enemy is coming. Now one more of us has fallen--Volodya from Lithuania. But the tanks keep coming. There are two of us, but we shall hold out as long as we have breath and prevent them from passing until our forces arrive. Now I am alone. I am wounded in the head and arm. I may die. I am from Frunze, a Russian. I have no parents. Goodbye, dear friends...."

One cannot read those lines filled with spiritual strength and written on a yellowed piece of paper, without emotion. The soldier held out to the death. People such as he can be killed, but it is as impossible to conquer them as it is impossible to destroy a great idea. The convinced person possesses not only moral strength, but enormous spiritual values as well. K. Marx wrote that ideas "which possess our thoughts and subordinate themselves to our convictions and to which intellect rivets our conscience are bonds from which we cannot break free

without destroying our heart...."<sup>5</sup> Those bonds are not hobbles but a great organizing basis permitting the individual to achieve unity of word and deed, of thought and act. And precisely therein lies the importance of spiritual values. They are materialized in a heroic act, in remarkable deeds, in creative accomplishments. In the words of Shakespeare, "where the thought is strong, the action is filled with strength."

Ideological conviction and its specific embodiment in heroic awareness, of course, only create the main and essential prerequisite for courageous, determined and heroic action. A strong will is needed to carry them out, to turn the potential into a factor, the thought into a deed. It is precisely for this reason that our party strives with the entire system of ideological and political indoctrination to achieve an active and creative attitude toward reality on the part of every Soviet individual. Ideological conviction based on a mastery of Marxist-Leninist theory matures and is affirmed in a struggle against difficulties, in specific deeds and accomplishments. Only struggle, V.I. Lenin taught us, reveals to the workers the extent of their strength, expands their horizons, brings out their abilities, clears their minds and molds their will.<sup>6</sup> And at critical moments these qualities are manifested through a heroic awareness.

It has fallen to the lot of the Soviet people not only to work to create a new world, but also to engage in mortal battles which have been forced upon them. And the communists have always been out front in the most difficult areas, leading their comrades. This has become the party standard, a combat rule and a fine heroic tradition of our people. In the war, prior to a battle or a dangerous mission, many fightingmen wrote out requests that they be considered communists should they die. I shall cite just one example--a request found in the pocket of Aleksey Gorokhov, who died near Stalingrad on 11 August 1942:

"I request the primary party organization of the 116th Guards Regiment to accept me into the party, since I would like to enter into battle against the fascist vipers only as a party member, in order to prevent them from advancing further into my native land and to fight them to my last drop of blood.

10 August 1942

A. Gorokhov"

Komsomol member Gorokhov was wounded during a battle, but he remained in the formation and fought to his last drop of blood. He was not yet 20 years old. For us he has always remained a fine young son of the homeland.

Heroic traditions are a concentration of military experience passed from generation to generation, a mixture of the epic, Russian heroic past and the new, revolutionary forms, rules and customs for combatting the homeland's enemies. The traditions reflect the most stable and valuable customs. The epics have brought down to us images of semi-legendary herculean Russian heroes and information on the brave armed forces of the ancient Russians, who protected their native land against foreign invaders. We remember the merits of outstanding military leaders and military chiefs of the past. It was with good reason that during the Great Patriotic War our party and government, wishing to draw special attention to the glorious heroic traditions, established the combat orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, Aleksandr Nevskiy, Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy, Ushakov and Nakhimov.



The traditions which were born with the revolution took on special importance for our people. The class solidarity of people liberated from oppression brought about new customs, standards and rituals, revolutionary and heroic by their very nature. Those traditions are alive and developing in our society. They are fixed in the minds and the deeds of Soviet citizens, and relics of the glory, in rules of behavior and customs. The heroic traditions are not just a component of our view of the world, of our spiritual culture. They are embodied in displays at museums and combat glory rooms, in the histories of units and ships, in monuments and memorials, in celebrations to outstanding events in the history of the Soviet people. Many traditions are fixed in rituals--solemn, austere, unadorned and filled with profound meaning.

We use the heroic traditions as a living concentration of military experience inherited from the past in the most diverse ways. To us heroes are fighters, models whom we try to be like. The Great Lenin told us, "to follow in their footsteps, to emulate their fearlessness, their heroism."<sup>7</sup> Little boys play games in which they pretend they are heroes, young people read and re-read books about them, and mature people learn from the best sons of the homeland. When the mother of Heroes of the Soviet Union Zoya and Aleksandr Kosmodem'yanskiy was asked where their heroism came from, she replied: "Where did yesterday's school children, who still did not have experience in life, get their courage and steadfastness? Heroes are not born, they develop. Thousands and thousands have become heroes because they were brought up that way by the school, the Komsomol, the family, by our literature, by our entire life. Stories about Chapayev, Parkhomenko, Lazo, Shchors, and N. Ostrovskiy's book, 'Kak Zakalyalas' Stal'' [How the Steel Was Tempered], left an indelible impression in their hearts.

The heroic traditions are also specific combat experience accumulated in the creative labor and battles fought for the homeland's freedom and independence. It has long been noted, for example, that a sharp surge of will, a courageous act, which will give new strength to the fightingmen, is essential at a critical moment in a battle. When V.I. Lenin read Napoleon's book, "Thoughts," he wrote down the following excerpt from it: "In every battle there is a moment when the bravest soldiers, following great tension, want to run. This panic results from a lack of faith in their own courage. An insignificant incident or some sort of pretext is enough to restore their faith. Great art consists in creating these factors."<sup>8</sup>

The history of our Armed Forces is filled with examples of the ability to restore people's faith in their own courage. Senior Lieutenant Nikolay Shornikov's subunit, which was a part of the limited Soviet contingent for rendering international assistance to friendly Afghanistan, had been surrounded by a group of rebels (dushman). While covering the evacuation of wounded soldiers, Shornikov found himself alone against an entire band. When all of his shells were gone, he blew up both himself and the bandits with a grenade. This is what his father and grandfather would have done. N.A. Shornikov was posthumously awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

The heroic traditions are also a reminder to us. A reminder of the past. A reminder of the fact that people maintain the linkage between times and cultures. The strength of a tradition lies in its continuity. Hegel noted that "a tradition is not simply a housekeeper who honestly preserves that which has been acquired. It is alive and passes the heritage on." And as we assimilate the

precepts, the experience, morals, customs and rules of our predecessors, each of us helps to make the great linkage between the times inseparable, solid and dynamic. He who does not know, who does not recall the heroic past cannot be spiritually rich.

People have always felt the need to leave a chronicle of their time for their descendents. The veterans write memoirs, and the young people write diaries. This is why we have the amazing diary of Leningrad schoolgirl Tanya Savicheva, K. Simonov's notes from the front, the wise memoirs and reflections of military leaders Zhukov, Vasilevskiy, Rokossovskiy.... This is the living fabric of history, its muted echo, and we need to know how to listen to it. It is sometimes not so important to reveal a new truth as it is to draw attention to an old one.

To take care of traditions is to take care of veterans of the revolution, labor and war. The further the unforgettable days of Victory retreat into the depths of history, the fewer of its makers are left among us. We need to hasten to listen to them, to show kind consideration for each person who traveled the fiery roads of the Great Patriotic War. Even those who were only 19 years old when it ended are now almost 60. "I saw soldiers rise up for an attack many times," famous Soviet military leader G.K. Zhukov wrote in his book. "It is not an easy thing to stand up to full height, when the air is being pierced by death-dealing metal. They arose, however! And many of them had barely tasted life-- 19 or 20 years old, the best age for a person--but it was ever forward! Very frequently there was only a German dugout erupting machine gun fire ahead of them." Without wounding their pride, G.K. Zhukov continued, treat the front line soldiers with sensitivity and respect. This is very small payment for what they did.

History has left for their descendents, immortal examples of the highest flight of the human spirit, great courage and heroism. Fixed in the revolutionary, labor and combat traditions, they have become our valuable possession, and as we master them we learn, mature and acquire a capacity for heightened public activeness. In this respect the heroic and patriotic indoctrination of the upcoming generation is one of the most important ways to mold a communist outlook and the spiritual foundation of a heroic act.

The Soviet Armed Forces has an important role in the shaping of a heroic awareness and good patriotic traits. As a specific political institution the Army and Navy develop a solid spiritual and physical foundation in the youth serving in the military. And it comes at precisely that age (18-19 years) when the individual's basic qualities are being shaped and strengthened especially intensively. The general process of communist indoctrination and the shaping of a thoroughly developed individual for the socialist society continues in the service.

As he serves in the army the fightingman devotes a considerable part of his time to training: exercises, naval cruises, strenuous marches, missile launches, firing practice, practice in operating combat vehicles, and so forth. Situations involving risk frequently arise, albeit overseen by the commander. Parachute jumps, operations conducted at night, in inclement weather or in areas of heavy smoke and on unfamiliar terrain, the crossing of water barriers, and the introduction of "emergency" situations on trainers gradually condition the moral

capacity and the mind of the soldier and sailor to nervous tension and develop courage. The individual gradually becomes accustomed to a sense of danger as an essential element in the combat work. Those who have received army and navy schooling ordinarily have a strong "military core."

A sociological study was performed in a number of military units. Around 86 percent questioned (they completed their service in 1978) valued highly its importance in their personal life, their moral development and their civil and spiritual maturation. Those people were interviewed again 5 years later (it was possible to contact most of them, since this was a part of the research program), and 98 percent of those interviewed still valued their service years just as highly.

Serving in the Armed Forces is an important social indoctrinational institution for the youth, and practically all male Soviet citizens experience it. Because of the specific nature of the social purpose of the army and navy, and because of the specific way they function, loyalty to duty, courage and readiness to perform a feat or a heroic act develop intensely in the young men during their military service. At a certain stage in the individual's development the army provides them with the qualities of a fightingman and citizen.

At the end of 1918 V.I. Lenin, chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, and Ya.M. Sverdlov, chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, established the standard "Red Army Man's Booklet," which is something like a collection of the ideological and moral principles of the citizen and defender of the new world. And those who were literate read the proud words of the appeal contained in it aloud to their comrades: "The Republic has shrouded you with great honor by giving you its trust. Be worthy of it. ...Tell yourself: 'I shall be an honorable fighter of the Republic, be a brother to all the laboring and oppressed people, and be relentless toward their enemies. I shall be loyal in the service, firm and unyielding, and I shall perform feats and not be content until I have smashed the dominion of untruth'."

In this precise revolutionary formula, which describes the fightingman and citizen prepared to perform feats, primary importance was attached to the people's self-awareness of the new world. The intellectual, moral and other features of the individual are formed on precisely this basis. The individual who has not developed these qualities cannot perform a heroic act if life should require it.

Moral preparedness to perform a feat as the highest manifestation of spiritual strength is invaluable. When we turn to the heroic chronicle of our people and their army, when we bow our heads at monuments honoring heroes of the homeland, we mentally see pictures of the past: fierce engagements with the enemy, inhuman efforts made for the sake of victory, the selfless labor of our fathers and grandfathers who built the developed socialist society. For them spiritual strength was not an abstract concept but the very essence of a heroic life. Nor is it an abstract concept for the present generation of young people. There is no limit to moral growth, after all.

Granted, not everyone will have to storm heights imbued with death, make an emergency landing in an aircraft away from an airfield or save a grain field from fire. Everyone has had to make a moral choice, which is not always easy

or simple, more than once, and will have to do so again. He who is not afraid to destroy relations with another who is in the wrong for the sake of the public welfare and the truth, to demonstrate civil altruism, moral determination, principle and courage will not be conquered by the greatest of feats when they are required. The main thing is to be prepared. Since ancient times life has generously provided opportunities for testing that readiness.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. V.I. Lenin, "Polnoye sobraniye sochineniy" [Complete collected works], Vol. 46, p. 256.
2. K. Marx and F. Engels, "Sochineniya" [Works], Vol. 3, p. 236.
3. Lenin, op. cit., Vol. 37, p. 116.
4. Ibid., Vol. 40, p. 322.
5. K. Marx and F. Engels, "Sochineniya," Vol. 1, p. 118.
6. Lenin, op. cit., Vol. 30, p. 314.
7. Ibid., Vol. 37, p. 172.
8. Ibid., Vol. 29, p. 357.

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## PRESERVING QUALITY IN PARTY ADMISSIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Nov 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Vyrodov, secretary of party commission with the political department of a large unit: "An Application for Acceptance Is Discussed"]

[Text] The decision of the battery party meeting was unanimous: to refuse Senior Lieutenant A. Rekunenکو admission as a member of the CPSU. The unit's party committee supported the opinion of the subunit's communists.

Just what had happened, why didn't Rekunenکو withstand the check during his candidate probationary period?

"He did not justify our confidence," said Senior Lieutenant Ye. Zaplutanov at a party meeting. "When we noticed that he works with subordinates poorly, we decided: it is inexperience. We helped him as we could. Later we understood: the main thing was missing--the desire of Rekunenکو himself to work at full strength and find contact with people. And here is the result: because of the poor training of the signalmen in his platoon the battery received only a satisfactory grade on a check."

Senior Lieutenant Rekunenکو was also reproached for the condition of the combat equipment and communications equipment and for the fact that violators of military discipline in the platoon often remain without the proper influence and that he does not always have a conscientious attitude toward the accomplishment of party assignments.... They spoke with Rekunenکو many times, heard him at a party meeting, and held him strictly responsible. But the matter did not go beyond assurances that he would turn over a new leaf.

It is still early to tell whether Rekunenکو drew correct conclusions from what had happened. However, what occurred in this party organization makes us think. It is gratifying that when examining the comrade's application for acceptance in the party the communists displayed devotion to principle and strict exactingness. In the situation which had developed, concern for the purity of the party ranks became the main concern. At the same time, it should be said directly: they accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU a person whom they knew poorly and who was not distinguished by exemplariness in service. This by no means squares with the requirement to accept in the party the best of the best, who merited the recognition of the primary party organization and the entire collective, and who showed up well in service and in public life.



Another aspect of this matter is the responsibility of those doing the recommending. One of them, Captain V. Kruglov, said at a session of the party committee:

"It is the first recommendation in my life that I considered what to write so long."

And the difficulty was that in recommending Rekunenکو for joining the ranks of the CPSU, Captain Kruglov had poor knowledge of his professional and moral-political qualities. For Rekunenکو had turned for recommendations not to the communists of the battery in which he serves, but to his comrades from the regimental headquarters. And they, not attaching significance to this "detail," did not ponder over why Rekunenکو came namely to them and gave him their guarantee.

Perhaps it would not be worth dwelling in such detail on this story if it and its lessons did not touch upon many questions in selection and acceptance into the party and raising the role and significance of the candidate probationary period which are not always solved successfully. Here recently this instance was encountered: the battalion party organization which is headed by Senior Lieutenant P. Popenko accepted five soldiers and sergeants as CPSU candidate members. And at a session of the regimental party committee it was learned that four of them were not ready to be communists. The reasons varied: poor theoretical training of the comrades, weak knowledge of the requirements of the CPSU Regulations and Program, and one of those joining pursued mercenary goals.

They began to examine just how did it happen and what moved the battalion's communists when they decided the question of accepting these comrades into the party? It turned out that their intentions seemed to be good. In the subunit questions of military discipline had remained "sore spots" for a long time. And so the communists decided to strengthen the party stratum among the soldiers and the sergeants. They hoped, they say, that this would remove an urgent problem from the agenda. But they did not understand that forcing acceptance into the party does not mean raising the combat vitality of the party organization and its influence on the state of affairs in the subunit. In the specific case even the opposite could happen: as time showed, three of those entering as CPSU candidate members were not distinguished by personal discipline themselves.

I should like to stress again: the purity of the party ranks is a question of principle. Not only is the desire of a person to become a communist, as was the case in the examples presented earlier, important. Something else is important --and what will he give to the party?

For example, how can we fail to recall the young communists Senior Sergeant T. Gogoladze and Private First Class V. Verkhoglyad. As they say, they became the soul of their troop collectives. Both were selected for Komsomol organs and, until the end of their service, were the best specialists of the subunit, experts in training, and leaders of socialist competition. I recall that I arrived at the artillery battalion where Gogoladze served; the communist's photograph was in both the Lenin room and the unit club. The battery commander, Senior Lieutenant Yu. Snetkov, said of Gogoladze: "Most reliable," and in the regimental Komsomol committee they said: "He is like a generator of interesting

ideas--what thematic soirees, oral journals, and Komsomol raids for quality and economy he conducts!" I also heard only good comments about Verkhoglyad. And when on a debate on the subject, "A True Friend: Who Is He?" many men mentioned the names of Gogoladze and Verkhoglyad, I asked those who spoke why they had singled out precisely these comrades, and they replied:

"They are communists!"

And this said it all.

Of course, the high party and professional qualities of the young communists and their ideological tempering are not acquired automatically. This is why work with CPSU candidate members is so important during their passage through their candidate probationary period which, as V. I. Lenin taught, should be a serious test and not an empty formality.

First of all, and this was noted at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, each one joining the party should be helped to master profoundly its ideological-political heritage, its Leninist traditions, and its bolshevik ethics. Here we have accumulated certain work experience and forms were stabilized: theoretical seminars and talks with the party candidates, lecture bureaus, training in party schools and schools of the young communist, meetings with veterans of the CPSU and the Armed Forces.... Much is provided by "CPSU Candidate Days" in the conduct of which the battalion commander and his deputies, personnel of the political department, secretaries of party committees, and representatives of local party and soviet organs take part.

But these, so to say, are mass measures. And how can we reach each person individually and intensify individual indoctrination? Various ways were tried and we dwelled on one which, it seemed to us, was the most optimum. Working with the young communists for the duration of their entire candidate probationary period are the comrades who gave them the recommendations. This is both assistance and raising the responsibility of those doing the recommending.

Here is such an example. Senior Lieutenant S. Il'inykh was recommended as a party candidate by Lieutenant Colonel V. Volkov and Major N. Vlasenko. They surrounded Il'inykh with constant attention and, if we can put it this way, exacting concern, and they kept in their field of view his development both as a communist and as an officer. And the time approached when they gave Il'inykh recommendations for becoming a CPSU member without a shadow of a doubt--they made no mistake in him. But, I stress again, they did much work so as not to make a mistake.

And it should not be otherwise. The one doing the recommending is responsible for the young communist. He is his main mentor and teacher; our opinion here is unequivocal. Just as it is unequivocal in something else--in the necessity and tremendous indoctrinational significance of mandatory listening to comrades about their passage through their candidate probationary period.

I will again refer to an example. Last year, according to the results of the winter training period, the platoon commanded by CPSU candidate member Senior Lieutenant V. Stupkin was evaluated as only satisfactory. What was the matter,

why were positions surrendered? They investigated, and Stupkin was guilty to a great extent: former successes turned his head.

The members of the battalion party buro heard Stupkin concerning his passage through his candidate probationary period and they seriously corrected their fellow-serviceman. This talk was of great value to him. According to the results of the training year the platoon occupied first place in the battalion, and not so long ago Senior Lieutenant Stupkin, as the leading officer of the subunit, was appointed to the post of company commander. For him, the candidate probationary period became the time for development in all respects and the acquisition of maturity.

And here is something else which I would like to mention. From our own experience we were convinced how important it is to conduct acceptance into the party at open party meetings with a discussion of the merits and shortcomings of those being accepted--that is, to solve these problems publicly, in view of the troop collective and with consideration of the opinions of the one who is entering held by the communists as well as the non-party personnel. For this is also a good school.

Let us say that the application of Junior Sergeant V. Stepanchuk for acceptance as a party candidate was considered. Komsomol Private First Class S. Pimenov requested to speak. "It is correct," he said, "Stepanchuk is a respected person in the collective. And he conducts Komsomol work in an interesting manner. But here is what I began to notice: at times he forgets about his obligations as squad leader because of social matters; therefore, violations of military discipline are occurring more and more often among his subordinates." Pimenov's remark (and by the way, only he noticed this tendency which is developing) worked to Stepanchuk's advantage.

It can be firmly said: open party meetings for acceptance became the standard for us. However, thus far we have not succeeded in seeing that those invited to it do not remain silent but actively express their opinion.

"The replenishment of party ranks and the indoctrination of young communists," said Comrade K. U. Chernenko, "is that link in which questions of organizational-party and ideological work come together." And it is our daily concern that this link is strong and is at the level of contemporary CPSU requirements. For we are speaking of the purity of our ranks and of the party's today and tomorrow.

6367

CSO: 1801/61

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

REVIEW: KOROLENKO VOLUME ON POLITICAL OFFICERS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 84 p 2

[Book review by Major General I. Larin: "The Political Officer's Calling, Notes on Books"]

[Text] In all units of the Soviet Army and on board all ships of the Soviet Navy we will now meet with young officers who have chosen for themselves the difficult profession of political officer. Together with our commanders, hand in hand with them, they contribute their knowledge, skills and abilities to the cause to train and educate skilled, courageous defenders of the motherland with solid ideological convictions. It is for them, worthy successors of the commissars and political officers of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars, as well as for our party and Komsomol aktiv, that V. I. Korolenko has written his book Prizvaniye politrabotnika [The Political Officer's Calling], which has been published by Voenizdat.\*

On the basis of actual examples and situations, with which the ten short chapters of the book abound, the author shares with the reader his thoughts on the profession of political officer. He tells us something about the careers of experienced educators and describes the experiences of some who are just taking their first independent steps after completing their schooling and then shows us how senior officers guide the development of the new political officer.

Speaking to the reader at the very beginning of the book, the author underlines the fact that the profession of political officer demands a variety of knowledge and skills and continuous efforts to increase them, love for and devotion to the work, competence, a nose for the new, optimism, congeniality and respect for other people.

As we make our way through the book we encounter commanders, commissars and other political officers who by personal example of bravery and valor during the difficult years of the Great Patriotic War inspired Soviet fighting men and instilled in them a faith in ultimate victory. Rising before us here is an entire constellation of commissars, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizers who endured the fire of battle with the enemy, men such as Yefim Fomin, Vasilii Klochkov, Georgiy Likhanov, Aleksandr Pankratov, Nikolay Loboda, Sergey Lysov, Fedor Bazhora, Vasilii Danilov, Aleksandr Makridin ....

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\* V. I. Korolenko. "Prizvaniye politrabotnika," Moscow, Voenizdat, 1984, 158 pp, 25 kopecks.



Political officer Klochkov lives on today in the efforts of our own men and in the new name the subunit has won for itself. There was a competition conducted here a few years ago under the slogan "Let us carry on and add our own contribution to the heroic achievements of our fathers!" Today's political officers, true comrades-in-arms of that fearless commissar Nikolay Loboda, are now in their turn demonstrating his Bolshevik fearlessness and communist conviction. Major V. Tsymbal, deputy squadron commander for political affairs, has won a name for himself in aviation unit X. A master of air combat, a respected officer who loves his profession, he has proven himself a worthy successor to the front-line political officer of yesterday.

The same could be said for Nikolay Shornikov, a graduate of the Higher Combined-Arms Military Political School imeni 60-th Anniversary of the Great October in Novosibirsk, with the same justification. For heroism in friendly Afghanistan, political officer Senior Lieutenant Nikolay Shornikov was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and his name permanently entered on the rolls of his school.

The book also tells us about number of political officer dynasties. This doesn't refer, of course, to a right to any special, privileged position. This is calling our attention above all to the highest spiritual values as passed on from one generation to another, values such as love for the motherland, loyalty to the party, devotion to the armed forces and concern for maintaining their strength and steadfastness.

The reader will learn a lot from this book about the schools which prepare our political officers for the different branches and services of the Soviet Armed Forces and about the Military Political Academy imeni V. I. Lenin and its graduates. Among them are over 150 Heroes of the Soviet Union.

The author, correctly in my view, has focused his attention primarily on the concrete experience of party political work, the practice of one-on-one contact in the educational process and involvement in active association with personnel, and on the ability of the political officer to master the fervent message the party intends to convey, modern-day military weapons and equipment and, a factor of exceptional importance, the use of a weapon which never becomes obsolete—the power of personal example.

8963

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ADMIRAL GORSHKOV WRITES EULOGY OF USTINOV

PM081227 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 84 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S. Gorshkov: "His Whole Life Devoted to Serving the Motherland"]

[Text] Profound sorrow fills our hearts. The Soviet people and Army and Navy servicemen have suffered a profound loss. Hero of the Soviet Union, Twice Hero of Socialist Labor, Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR minister of defense, and deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, is dead. The heart of a prominent figure of the Leninist party and the Soviet state, an outstanding military leader and an ardent patriot and internationalist, has ceased beating.

His entire brilliant life was filled with ebullient energy directed toward building, developing and improving the Armed Forces. In all the posts in which Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov worked by the will of the party and the Soviet state, he devoted his strength, knowledge, and tremendous experience of life to the unswerving implementation of CPSU policy and to the cause of strengthening the country's defense capability and the combat might of the Soviet Army and Navy.

I got to know Dmitriy Fedorovich well back before the war. I met him for the first time in 1940, when he was director of the Bolshevik Plant. Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov made a great impression on me by his engineering erudition, tireless energy, and understanding of the Navy's role in the country's defense.

I subsequently met Dmitriy Fedorovich on several occasions when he worked in various high posts, and I worked particularly closely under his immediate leadership as commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister.

In the tense years of the Great Patriotic War, D. F. Ustinov, in the responsible post of USSR people's commissar for armaments, displayed great organizational abilities and talent in the leadership of that sector of military industry. In fulfilling the targets of the party and the Soviet Government for supplying the Army and Navy with arms, he made a major contribution to the development of arms production.

Thanks to the gigantic efforts of the Communist Party, the heroic work of the people, and the efficient organization of the management of the People's Commissariat enterprises under the leadership of D. F. Ustinov, the output of all types of artillery and small arms increased considerably even in the second

half of 1941, and as of mid-1942 the defense industry was able to supply all the Armed Forces' needs for these weapons. The average annual level of USSR production during the war was twice that of fascist Germany for field pieces (75mm and over) and five times Germany's output of machineguns. In their combat qualities, Soviet weapons were not only not inferior to the analogous types of enemy weapons, but many models were even superior to them. This was a great contribution by the labor collectives of the People's Commissariat for Arms to the achievement of victory over fascist Germany.

Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov continued his tireless creative work in high posts in the period after the war, too. In the conditions of the cold war unleashed by the reactionary forces of imperialism, the Communist Party and the Soviet state were faced with the pointed question of further increasing the country's defense might. It was primarily necessary to equip the Army and Navy with the most up-to-date weapons and combat hardware. The party entrusted this crucial task to D. F. Ustinov. At the head of the Ministry of Armaments and then the Ministry of the Defense Industry, he successfully coped with the organization and implementation of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government on the technical reequipping of the Army and Navy.

Being at different times in high state and party posts—as deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR Supreme Council of National Economy, and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee—D. F. Ustinov skillfully coordinated and directed the work of scientific institutions, design bureaus, and industrial enterprises with a view to the fullest possible fulfillment of the party and government targets for further strengthening the motherland's economic and defense might. By his intensive labor, he made a great contribution to resolving the scientific and technical problems connected with the creation of a Soviet oceangoing nuclear missile fleet and missile technology and with the conquest of space by Soviet man.

In April 1976, the Communist Party and Soviet Government entrusted D. F. Ustinov with one of the most responsible and complex sectors of state activity. He was appointed USSR defense minister.

D. F. Ustinov devoted all his ebullient energy, his purposefulness as a Leninist Communist, all his extensive knowledge, his tremendous experience as a politician and statesman, and his talent as a military leader to the further enhancement of the Soviet Armed Forces' combat might and the strengthening of their combat cooperation with the Armies of the Warsaw Pact states.

During this period, under the direct leadership of D. F. Ustinov, considerable work was done to technically reequip the Army and Navy on a regular basis, and the organizational structure and system of control of the Armed Forces was improved. D. F. Ustinov was the champion of everything that was new and a talented organizer. A genuinely statewide breadth of view, a profound knowledge of the natural laws of armed struggle, and an understanding of the processes of military building enabled him to guide the harmonious development of all branches of the Armed Forces on the basis of the latest achievements of scientific and technical progress.

Constant links with labor and military collectives and party organizations and a tremendous interest in all details of military matters, the training and education of troops, their everyday life, and cultured leisure were highly typical of Dmitriy Fedorovich. He was constantly concerned with increasing the USSR Armed Forces' spiritual potential, fashioning communist ideological conviction and a firm Marxist-Leninist world view in personnel, and improving party political work in the Army and Navy. He had a good understanding of the specific nature of each of the branches of the Armed Forces and knew their special features, their role and place in the country's defense, and ways and means to improve their combat readiness.

Personally leading the major exercises and maneuvers of recent years, Dmitriy Fedorovich introduced many innovations into the theory of modern operations on land and at sea and displayed a model creative approach to the resolution of complex problems of the management and combat employment of troops and naval forces.

Many sailors remember warm greetings with Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov. Dmitriy Fedorovich repeatedly put to sea on warships. Each such trip left an appreciable trace in the life and combat training of our fleets. D. F. Ustinov's fatherly instructions to sailors will always be a true and reliable compass for Navy personnel in fulfilling their military duty.

Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov also showed himself to be a major military theoretician, leaving a rich legacy in the sphere of military science. He was chairman of the main editorial commission of the multivolume publication entitled "History of World War II, 1939-1945." His "Selected Speeches and Articles," his book "We Serve the Motherland and the Cause of Communism," and other works enjoy wide popularity among the people.

Everybody who saw Dmitriy Fedorovich off duty noted his noble human qualities, his simplicity and sincerity in relations with people. He was noted for his invariable love of life, optimism, tirelessness, and high degree of tact.

It is difficult to believe that Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov is no longer with us. However, the Soviet people will never forget everything he did for the fatherland, for the party, and for our valiant Armed Forces. His life, devoted to the people to the end, was a striking model of devotion to the great cause of Lenin, the cause of communism.

Farewell, our dear friend and comrade!

CSO: 1801/118



EDITORIAL ON STATUS OF LIEUTENANTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 84 p 1

[Article: "Lieutenants"]

[Text] Figuratively speaking, fall is the season of the lieutenants, who come to the units and the ships from military schools. A new detachment of young officers entered the combat formations of the army and the navy this fall as well. They are now commanding platoons and groups aboard ships, they are serving as subunit deputy commanders for political affairs, they occupy posts of military engineers and technicians, and they are responsible for the training and indoctrination of subordinates and for competent operation of armament and equipment. They are making a worthy contribution to the struggle for successful preparation for a new training year, and for an honorable welcome to the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

A lieutenant's youth. What officer, general or admiral does not keep in his heart the fond memories of his first steps as an officer, full of romanticism and inspiration, of senior comrades--commanders and political workers, and of peers with lieutenant shoulderboards? "As with probably many frontline commanders, I often recall my days as a young lieutenant," writes Colonel (Retired) T. Ardashirov to the editor. "And then, as if in a dream, I see my first platoon before me, in which many of the soldiers were almost twice older than their commander, and bearing combat orders and medals. I recall my first battle in the Volkhov Front in August 1943, and the bitterness of the losses.... What more can be said: The years spent as a lieutenant are unforgettable, just like a first love...." Yes, the memory of a lieutenant's years is a special one, an emotional one.

And this is natural. It is namely during his first steps taken as a lieutenant that the individual develops his true character as an officer, forms spiritual strength, tempers his will and fills his heart with valor. It is symbolic that among the thousands of soldiers who have been awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union title for acts of heroism in the Great Patriotic War, there are many lieutenants. We can recall a fighter pilot Lieutenant Timur Frunze, the fearless border guard chief Lieutenant Andrey Kizhevatonov and Political Instructor Vasilii Klochkov, who committed his act of immortal heroism in the battle of Moscow. Their heroic deeds, the magnitude of their spirit and their selflessness in serving the motherland deserve admiration.

The immortal deeds of the wartime lieutenants have been permanently entered into the war chronicle of the units and ships. Works of literature and art have been dedicated to them, and their names have been given to the streets and squares of cities and towns. Time has passed, and the heads of those who had traveled through the fire of battle have turned gray with age. Many of them have become prominent military chiefs and political workers.

Today the sons and grandsons of the heroes of the past war have taken their place in formation among the lieutenants. These are people of high ideological maturity, professional competency and creativity. By their selfless service and successes in military labor they are multiplying the glory of their units and ships. This is brilliantly confirmed by the example of those young commanders, political workers, engineers and technicians who have earned orders and medals in peacetime for courage, heroism and outstanding assimilation of new equipment and weapons.

The years of a lieutenant go by swiftly but productively. He who is persistent and purposeful, who works at peak effort from the first days of his service as an officer, manages to accomplish a very great deal. Words of admiration are being passed around about the young officers Nikolay Ovcharenko and Vladimir Korobko in the Guards combat engineer battalion under the command of Guards Major N. Ponomarenko. Just a few years have passed since they were presented with lieutenant shoulderboards. But the strength of young officers lies in the fact that they can change so much in such a short period of time. The officers have service in the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and dozens of highly dangerous mine clearing operations behind their backs. Communist Guards senior lieutenants Ovcharenko and Korobko were awarded the Order of the Red Star for courage and heroism. Today both command companies which were deemed the best in the unit for the results of the year. And we can confidently say that no matter where they will serve, no matter what trials might fall to them, they will devote all of the passion of their hearts and all of their knowledge and strength to fulfilling their duty to the motherland, just like they did during their first steps as lieutenants.

On becoming an officer, every lieutenant acquires the important right and honorable obligation of competently training and indoctrinating subordinates and, if necessary, boldly leading them in combat. What an obligation this right imposes! And primarily upon those who must serve as examples to others. Examples and proficient handling of weapons and combat equipment, in possessing the qualities of a political warrior and in being a competent organizer and a champion of high discipline and order.

A successful beginning means a great deal in an officer's service. The one thing that is important is not to allow the time of the officer's development to drag on too long: Though it is a fabulous time in terms of its unrepeatability, it is a difficult time. And one can imagine how important fatherly support to lieutenants on the part of senior comrades, commanders and chiefs is during this time. It has become a good tradition in the units and aboard the ships to surround lieutenants with attention and concern, and to help them gain confidence and surmount the difficulties they encounter at the beginning of their career. Commanders and political workers implement entire

complexes of measures aimed at raising their ideological-theoretical level, developing their organizational and professional qualities and helping them to master a Leninist style in work with people. These measures include individual discussions in a relaxed situation, lieutenant evenings in the officers' club, leaflets dedicated to leading lieutenants and heart-to-heart meetings with veterans. It is important for each such measure dedicated to young officers to be distinguished by a creative approach, by rich content and by a high emotional charge.

Senior chiefs and regiment and ship commanders play a special role in shaping the moral climate of a lieutenant's environment. Their personal example in service and in personal life and their exactingness and attention toward officers, especially young ones, predetermine the atmosphere upon which the development of lieutenants and their career advancement depend so much. This is precisely the kind of example which Guards Major M. Varentsov, commander of a certain Guards airborne regiment, offers to his subordinates. He graduated from military school with honors, he graduated from the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze with a gold medal, and he is now continuing to work on himself. He is a model of self-control, organization and true party attention to people, especially to lieutenants. The regiment commander personally interviews every school graduate that comes to the unit, he always shows interest in their development, and he tries to see that the material and personal needs of the lieutenants are fully satisfied and that their leisure is filled with good cultural pursuits. The example of the commander is followed by his deputy for political affairs, the chief of staff, the battalion commanders and the chiefs of services. An atmosphere of business-like exactingness, responsibility of older officers for younger officers, and mutual assistance reigns in the regiment. This is naturally a good foundation for the unit's high combat readiness. The regiment was deemed outstanding on the basis of the year's results, and it completely satisfied its competition pledges. And of course, great credit for this achievement belongs to the lieutenants, to the platoon and company commanders.

There can be no debate that commanders, political workers and party and Komsomol organizations, and the help they render to yesterday's military school graduates, have a great deal to do with the successful beginning of a lieutenant's career. But still, the decisive prerequisite of every lieutenant's development is personal enthusiasm in service, a desire to give all of oneself to the cause within one's area of responsibility. These qualities are typical of thousands upon thousands of lieutenants, who recognize with all of their hearts that special mission which the party and the people have given to the Soviet officer.

Occasionally, unfortunately, lieutenants are encountered who come to the troops or the navy not to serve but to feather their own nest. Before they have a chance to get a real sense of life in the regiment and aboard ship, they seek jobs away from the firingline, closer to major population centers. This is why work with lieutenants also includes strict punishment of those who seek the "easy life," who desire to achieve success without adequate effort. It is the duty of commanders and political organs and of party and Komsomol organizations not only to show concern for the firm professional habits of

lieutenants but also to display maximum concern for raising their political maturity and indoctrinating them in a spirit of faithfulness to military duty. The fighting power of our armed forces depends in many ways on the training level and on the moral, political and working qualities of lieutenants, on how their development proceeds in the units and aboard ships.

Lieutenants have been and will continue to be worthy successors of the war veterans, and continuers of the heroic glory of the Soviet officer corps. They possess high professional skill, ideological maturity, courage, steadfastness and a constant readiness for heroism. Lieutenants are selflessly working in the Soviet Armed Forces today in behalf of a lofty goal--defense of the socialist fatherland, investing all of their knowledge, their youthful zeal and burning energy and all of the passion of their hearts to military labor.

11004

CSO: 1801/83



ARMED FORCES

REGIMENT SUCCEEDS IN ELIMINATING WASTE

MOSCOW KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col Ye. Monakhovskiy, Red Banner Transcaucasian Military District: "When Each Is Thrifty"]

[Text] This incident once occurred in our regiment: Captain A. Mikhaylov wanted to return some antifreeze to the storage depot. But nothing came of his efforts. "I won't accept it," Captain I. Lisitsyn declared, "its density is too low." In a word, a conflict arose which became known at unit headquarters as well. After the incident was analyzed, it became clear that a driver who was subordinated to battery commander Captain A. Mikhaylov failed to monitor the integrity of the cooling system of the vehicle assigned to him. This resulted in leakage of antifreeze. The soldier's solution to the problem was not the wisest: He simply added water to the radiator. With time, all that remained of antifreeze in the system was its odor, and this is the liquid which Mikhaylov brought to the depot.

"What can we do?" the commander said. "There was no misappropriation, but there is also no antifreeze."

It may seem strange to some that an investigation was ordered just for a couple of dozen liters of antifreeze. But in the regiment, such an investigation seemed like the right thing to do. After all, what is important here is not the size of the loss but the principle. Therefore Major A. Zhil'chenko, who was appointed to conduct the investigation, tackled it with all care and seriousness. The cost of the antifreeze was reimbursed by the culprits. But this was not the end of the matter. The regiment commander brought up the question of thrift for discussion at an officer meeting, and so this particular case became a topic of extensive and concerned discussion.

Obviously, it was no accident that our unit initiated the competition for economy and thrift in the district. Careful people with a flair for management have come together in the unit. For example we have been able to save more than 15 tons of gasoline alone in the first half of the year. Of course, this is but a drop in the bucket on the scale of the armed forces. But it is from such drops that multidigit countrywide savings are born.

One may ask: But how could gasoline be economized on during intense combat training, when marches are performed in difficult mountain conditions? Let

me say that there are no special secrets here. What helps are good training of drivers, their perfect knowledge of the vehicles and exemplary preparation of equipment for travel in the field. Careful planning of the routes of travel plays an important role here. In this work we necessarily consider the economic factor, so that the outlays of materiel and engine life would be minimal. And before going out in the field, the soldiers themselves take pledges to achieve high results not only in the march and in tactical and gunnery training but also in economizing on certain quantities of fuel. When we summarize the results, we necessarily consider the economic indicators, and the overall score is based on all of the data taken together. That subunit which achieves the highest results with the least outlays is deemed the best.

I recall previous years when the following picture could have been observed in the regiment: We saved considerable amounts of fuel during field exercises, but when consumption was calculated on a monthly or quarterly basis, we found that we were barely making it. We carefully analyzed our economic work and came to a surprising discovery. It turned out that the maintenance battery was responsible for cancelling out our entire savings. How could this be? After all, it did not possess that many vehicles, and they are operated less intensively. We began digging. We instructed battery commander Senior Lieutenant Z. Zaalishvili to map out the travel routes, calculate the mileage and fuel consumption, and consider traffic safety. When this work was done, the optimum routes were approved at regimental headquarters. Now all travel between rear services facilities is performed only on approved routes, and fuel is dispensed only in the volume needed for the given mission.

The regiment deputy commander for rear services deserves a good word. Together with his helpers he has developed a continuous route for his trucks. Now clothing, ammunition and food deliveries have been systematized, and empty runs have been excluded.

The commander, political workers and party organization devote a great deal of attention to the work of the motor pool. Sometimes rear-view mirrors, headlights and turning lights disappeared without a trace from some drivers. I recall 2 years ago that the brake light was removed from one of the vehicles of an antitank battery. No special significance was attached to this incident at that time, since it was believed to be unimportant. But soon after, the motor pool duty officer discovered a storage battery that had been removed from a vehicle and prepared for removal from the motor pool territory. An investigation was conducted, and it was revealed that one of the new soldiers, who was still poorly known in the battery, had been contemplating this pilferage. This incident became a good lesson to all, and it encouraged us to intensify control and indoctrination work in the collective, and to reach every soldier in this effort.

One other thing about thrift is that it loves initiative. For example a fabulous personal services exchange was created in our regiment on the basis of an idea from rear service workers. The exchange is managed by Private R. Kverkeveliia. The advantage from the exchange is tangible. We now send only sheets out to be laundered--the rest we do ourselves, and there has not yet been a case of a delay in laundering or issuing underwear.

Or consider our kitchen farm. It makes a substantial contribution to the soldier's table. We grow vegetables, tomatoes, cucumbers and onions year-round in the hothouse. Each year the farm provides the dining hall with 32 kilograms of vegetables per soldier. For the moment we are receiving 17 kilograms of meat per person, but we are satisfying the regiment's entire demand for eggs with our own chickenhouse.

This year we attempted an experiment: We bought bull-calves from local farms with the objective of fattening them. They are gaining weight quickly, and there can be no doubt that by the end of the year our meat supply will improve significantly. And our end goal is to completely satisfy the regiment's demand for all foodstuffs with the kitchen farm.

The people's control group headed by Captain V. Khromenko plays a major role in instilling thrift. It is staffed by Major V. Domkin, Lieutenant O. Rozenberg and other activists. They perform mass raids, and planned and surprise inspections. The patrolmen enjoy irreproachable authority in the regiment, and they effectively assist the commander in maintaining proper order.

We can proudly report today that our regiment's pledges of thrift have been completely satisfied. A careful attitude on the part of each in relation to public property and a constant struggle for economy in all things great and small played a decisive role.

11004

CSO: 1801/83

ARMED FORCES

EDITORIAL STRESSES THRIFT, ECONOMIZING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 84 p 1

[Article: "In Behalf of Economy and Thrift"]

[Text] A careful attitude on the part of every Soviet citizen to the people's wealth, and the ability to make complete and suitable use of all that we have are the core of our economic policy and the most important principles of the economic strategy of our party. The need for persistently working to economize more and more with greater effort in all sectors was emphasized at the October (1984) CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

This requirement pertains fully to Soviet soldiers, laborers and white collar workers in the army and navy. The struggle for economy and thrift is being waged in every military unit, aboard ship, in military educational institutions, at military construction sites, at enterprises and in every institution of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Every decision made by a commander or other official, be it at an exercise or in the course of administrative work, must invariably consider the economic factor.

Today, in a time in which the troops and naval forces are saturated more than ever by complex and expensive weapons and combat equipment, the struggle for economy and thrift has acquired special significance. It is important for every commander, staff officer and chief of service organizing combat training and the service of the troops to be able to think economically. Comprehensively prepared and well executed combat training missions, efficient and intense training, effective utilization of training complexes and creation of new ones, and selection of optimum ways of expending the life of combat equipment, ammunition, fuel and other materiel will make it possible to release significant assets to support additional combat training.

Economic work in the troops plays an important role in the struggle for economy and thrift. Careful and conscientious handling of money, frugal administration, compliance with the strictest labor discipline and maintenance of strict records and control are Lenin's requirements which make up the essence of this economic work. Economic work is foreseen by the appropriate plan for the troop unit, ship or formation, it must be carried out by specific executors within particular deadlines, and it should insure the anticipated result in preserving equipment and weapons, engine life, the barracks and



ARMED FORCES

FEUILLETON: ON CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by Colonel A. Drovosekov: "The 'Long-Term Construction Project' and the Vertical"]

[Text] Theory, we all know, is verified in practice. So, proceeding now on the basis of what can be observed in the real world, there is reason to say that in considering why it is that the Tower of Pisa inclines from the vertical, the experts have forgotten one important factor. For one reason or another they have neglected the fact that this was a "long-term" construction project. And it's no joke — it took 198 years to build the tower!

Now, the present writer is far from suggesting that it is only because of this that the famous tower is in such a lamentable state. But after close examination of the reality confronting him on all sides, he has come to the conclusion that the laurels won by the builders of the Tower of Pisa have aroused the envy of a great number of present-day builders, who have decided to follow their example of the "long-term construction method." The evidence, alas, will not be difficult to find.

Take, for example, the production facility the military construction organization headed by Colonel Belov is building for an armored vehicle repair enterprise. Now, to be entirely fair here, we should point out that work on this building has not been under way for any 198 years, rather for only 8; on the other hand, it is certainly not going to stand comparison with any architectural masterpiece.

At the same time, comrade Belov has been the third head of the construction operations office during this period, while the project is now going on its sixth site supervisor. The first one, G. Buryakovskiy, who oversaw the building of the foundation as a captain, is now a lieutenant colonel and chief of the construction operations department in the same office of construction operations.

But then, people do grow and advance. Although this doesn't say anything about the pace and quality of the construction they're responsible for. This past July, after inspecting a new section which had already been turned over for occupation, representatives of the USSR Ministry of Defense's State Commission of Experts and Inspectors walked away deeply troubled by what they had seen. They heaved no few more heavy sighs when they had a look at the administration building being built for the enterprise, which had been scheduled for occupation back in 1982.

Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Pozdnyshev, chief engineer and acting chief of the office of construction operations, had written to his superiors August 12 reporting that defects which had been pointed out during the inspection had been remedied. In an inspection of the production facility conducted in the second half of October by representatives of the customer, the builder, the prime contractor and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, it was observed that the work had not yet been completed. Lieutenant Colonel G. Buryakovskiy, to whom we then had to turn for the explanations, contemplated the unfinished joints intently for some time and then in a reproachful tone said:

"You've got to read the documents more closely. What is it that Pozdnyshev has in fact written? That 'work on finishing the joints is in the stage of completion.'"

We took another look around. The "stage of completion" certainly wasn't being inspected very thoroughly. Not a single member of the military construction crew was to be found on the job or even in the vicinity. It had become exceedingly clear that the "stage of completion" could drag on indefinitely. If, of course, things didn't take a turn for the better. In the meantime, however, the 600,000 rubles' worth of equipment which had been delivered for the new production facility four years previously would continue to idle its way into obsolescence.

"We know what our own responsibilities are," Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Pozdnyshev remarked in the course of our conversation. "But the fact is that we on our own can determine precious little. Say we draw up the plan outlining the way we're going to divide up our title allocations for the second half of 1984, but then it remains nothing but a piece of paper because events have taken control and made some adjustments of their own ...."

Events, life, can occasionally, it is true, present us with the most unexpected problems which we cannot escape without solving. These problems alone, however, cannot be held responsible above all others for interruptions and poor coordination. To fix on the main culprit here we must look in the direction of those responsible individuals who seem to be entirely unable to overcome the attraction of the managerial chair to get out and see to the organization of personnel and operations on site or to conquer the urge to occupy themselves in interminable meetings and paperwork. What we see in this particular instance are so many decisions taken at so many different levels, so many different plans and work deadlines and schedules which had to be established and then countersigned by a dozen different responsible officials and so many orders and instructions that there simply appeared to be no end to it. What we don't see enough of attention to the really small stuff—monitoring, for example, the implementation of one's own, most frequently, eminently sensible plans and decisions.

Finally, after losing faith in the promises of the construction people, both the customer and the builder start writing up their complaints, which gradually draw officials at higher and higher levels into the sphere of their concerns.

This past March, for example, a document appeared over the signature of a solid, responsible sort saying that the military construction organization in which Colonel V. Volkov is chief engineer will "insure fulfillment of the 1984 plan

and take the steps necessary to have the building ready for occupancy in 1985." It refers here to the 192-apartment building which has been under construction since 1982.

"If the construction of this building had been planned properly we would only now be beginning on it," Colonel V. Volkov said in response to inquiries in the reason for this delay in construction. "For the fact is that even if the thing were done now, we wouldn't be turning it over for occupancy with any sewage system, which is supposed to be ready in 1986."

Well, after having to listen to a story like this you want to go shame the customer and the builder, who squeezed this building project onto the title list without thinking about the sewer system.

"We most certainly did think about it! And not only about the sewer system. We were including the heat, the water, the telephone, the radio ...." This we now hear as though in a single voice from Lieutenant Colonel A. Dubchenko and Major G. Kazarov, who were representing respectively the customer and the builder at a meeting held at the construction site with comrade V. Volkov and Lieutenant Colonel V. Zavyazkin, chief engineer for the office of construction operations which was the general contractor for this project. "There is approval for all these things...."

Colonel B. Volkov was puzzled by what he was hearing but had no intention of abandoning his positions:

"The customer had made up his mind that he wanted the building in brick. But did he know, we asked him, what kind of trouble we had with brick? So we told him we wouldn't do it for him in brick, but he insisted on brick all the same."

And it's true, they did tell him they wouldn't do it in brick. There's even a document dated sometime back in 1981 to confirm it. But then there's another one, this one also dated 1981, signed by a Colonel Yu. Shesternov, which says that the building "will be built of prefabricated modules and brick." And it was precisely the latter document that was used in discussions of plans for this residential building. But because of this, the brick problem has remained a problem, as can be seen in the rate of progress on the project.

...One wall of the administration building, which is being built on the same site as the repair facility, has been almost completely faced in tile. Completely, that is, except for a wedge-shaped area, which points to the absence of a right angle somewhere. Either the building has been able to settle because no drains have been laid to carry water away from the foundation walls, or the masons have been working without a plumb line. But at least one thing is clear: there is an inclination from the vertical here.

It's not a happy situation, of course, but we will hope that this building won't turn out like the Tower of Pisa, which experts from many countries are now trying to figure out how to save. What concerns us now, though, is the question of who is going to be responsible for figuring out how to remedy these deviations from the vertical, or, more precisely, these shortcomings in the organization and supervision of the construction project here, which in one instance have held up the development of our productive base and on the other had a depressing effect on the humors of the people who are going to be living in the new building?

8963

CSO: 1801/63

ARMED FORCES

FEUILLETON: MUCH ADO ABOUT THREE-ROOM APARTMENT

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Nov 84 p 2

[Article: "'Our Man'"]

[Text] A feuilleton by the unofficial correspondent of the newspaper, Captain 1st Rank (Retired) Ye. Korovin, which was published in KRSNAYA ZVEZDA was called "Our Man." It discussed the fact that the former chief of the Finance Service of the Nth Force, Northern Fleet, M. Lyashchenko, abused his official position and was engaged in housing machinations. And after release to the reserve, having housing in another city he tried to obtain an apartment illegally in Sevastopol. He was assisted in this by the chief of the Finance Service of the Black Sea Fleet, Major General V. Timoshchenko. In addition, he furthered the appointment and service advance of his relatives.

The newspaper's article caused the comments of readers, among them of those who formerly served or are now serving together with those who were subjected to criticism in the feuilleton. In some letters, there were additional facts of abuses on the part of the indicated persons. Naturally, the readers are interested in what measures have been adopted against the guilty.

However, the editors could not report on this earlier, and the reasons for this are as follows.

The editors received four official replies in connection with the publication of the feuilleton: from the political directorate of the Black Sea Fleet, from the military prosecutors' offices of the Black Sea and Northern Fleets, and from the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office. A difficult situation developed because extremely contradictory information was contained in the replies.

Thus, the Assistant Chief Military Prosecutor, Colonel of Justice V. Gushchin, reported: "The author of the feuilleton indicates that, arriving in the Northern Fleet, 'Lyashchenko settled in a three-room apartment and began to fuss about a separate one-room apartment for his unmarried daughter. He went to a lot of trouble....' Meanwhile, a one-room apartment was allotted on the decision of the housing commission in connection with the father's forthcoming release to the reserve and his departure to a new place of residence. On his departure in the fall of 1983, Lyashchenko turned in his three-room apartment. The author of the feuilleton also points out that agitation around Lyashchenko's modest name was begun by the capable hand of General Timoshchenko, implying the allocation of an apartment to the former in the city of Sevastopol.... The



petition which concerned the allocation of the living space which has been noted was not submitted by Comrade Timoshchenko...."

The First Deputy Military Prosecutor of the Northern Fleet, Colonel of Justice A. Shaboltanov, is in complete sympathy with this evaluation.

And now, let us quote lines from the response to the article which arrived from the Political Directorate of the Black Sea Fleet. "As an investigation showed, Lieutenant Colonel Lyashchenko, serving in the Northern Fleet, actually abused his official position for which he was made answerable to the party.... After his release to the reserve...Major General Timoshchenko petitioned the chief of the fleet's rear services concerning the allocation of an apartment to Lyashchenko in Sevastopol." In the reply, it was also reported that with consideration of all circumstances no apartment was allocated to Lyashchenko. The Military Prosecutor of the Black Sea Fleet, Major General of Justice V. Krotenkov, also confirmed the instances of abuse on the part of Lyashchenko and Timoshchenko's petitioning for the allocation of an apartment to him.

So you judge: were there housing machinations on Lyashchenko's part or not? Did Major General Timoshchenko get an apartment for him in Sevastopol or not?...

All this required an additional investigation. While it was under way, the editors received a letter on the violation of financial and personnel discipline in which the name of Major General Timoshchenko was again mentioned. Outside any connection with the publication of the feuilleton, we sent it for investigation and received a reply from Major General of Justice Krotenkov. He reported that the facts occurred and that the "Chief of Finance Service of the fleet, Major General Timoshchenko, who had executed weak control over the expenditure of monetary resources, had been disciplined...." Of course, this fact had no direct relation to the feuilleton, but there is information to ponder here.

Meanwhile, materials from the supplementary investigation began to reach the editors. Here is what was established by a representative of the North Sea Fleet Naval Engineering Service Major O. Morozov, and the personnel of the OMIS [expansion unknown] and the housing directorate who assisted him (copies of numerous statements with signatures and seals were sent to the editors).

Having reserved dwelling space in the Ukraine, Lyashchenko arrived at the Northern Fleet where he received a three-room apartment in one of the garrisons. However, in obtaining it he used a fictitious certificate concerning the composition of his family. This certificate, which was signed by S. Bragarnik (subsequently only documents are cited--editors) "is invalid and was issued based on considerations of friendship under a fictitious reference number without being recorded in the register.... The granting of a separate one-room apartment to Lyashchenko's unmarried daughter contradicts the directive...and is illegal.... In October 1983, Lyashchenko submitted a certificate signed by the chief of the OMIS, Lieutenant Colonel V. Khodyrev, concerning the turn-in of dwelling space at his former place of service. However, according to the report of the chairman of the gorispolkom, the apartment was reserved for citizen Lyashchenko for the entire period of service in the Far North. And

according to the report of the chief of the Black Sea Fleet MIS [Naval Engineering Service], the personal account for an apartment was revised for Lyashchenko's son who was not registered in this city. Lyashchenko also received a certificate concerning the turn-in of dwelling space at the last place of service without actually vacating it, which is also a violation.

Most likely, it is sufficient to draw a conclusion: Lyashchenko was engaged in housing machinations or he was not. By the way, all those who were involved in the issuing of fictitious certificates now have the prefix "former" in relation to the posts which they formerly occupied for the abuses which were committed.

And now--the question of Comrade Timoshchenko's position in the selection and placement of personnel in the Finance Service of the Black Sea Fleet, which was one of the main questions in the feuilleton and which, unfortunately, received almost no attention in the official replies.

As the supplementary investigation confirmed, Timoshchenko was far from impartial in regard to Lyashchenko as he was not impartial in several other cases, too.

In 1981, the post of chief accountant was vacated in the Medical Department of the Black Sea Fleet. The former accountant, who had been commended with the knowledge of the leadership of the fleet's Finance Service for "good work," was exposed in swindling operations and sat in the dock. Five applicants immediately appeared for the post which had been vacated, including specialists with a higher education. However, a person who did not have a higher specialized education was appointed to the post. But in return, by family line he was related to the chief of the Finance Service.....

Let us dwell again on one fact which readers reported in their replies and which received confirmation. Working in Simferopol in one of the companies was one V. Khokhlov, a person of unenviable reputation who had been caught in the violation of the rules of Soviet trade and had been forced to leave his former place of work "on his own desire" in connection with this. Comrade Timoshchenko "set him up" as senior economist in the fleet's Finance Service. In Simferopol Khokhlov lived with his wife and mother-in-law in a private two-story residence. In Sevastopol, with the assistance of his protector he received a registration with the police without any trouble, settled in a two-room reserved apartment, and now has been registered for joining a housing-construction cooperative. Some time later, Khokhlov was awarded a certificate...as a member of the public control commission to check the work of the post exchange enterprises.

Dishonest people who look at life only from consumer positions are successful where a lack of demandingness and unscrupulousness exists. The party requires that communists and, what is more, leader-communists be examples of high discipline, order, strict observance of legality, and examples of a party attitude toward criticism.

The editors hope that in satisfying this party requirement the appropriate departments will give a principled evaluation to everything which has happened.

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CSO: 1801/61

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PROMOTIONS: MAR AVIA KOLDUNOV, COL GEN KRIVDE

Moscow VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SOYUZA SOVETSKIKH SOTSIALISTICHESKIKH  
RESPUBLIK in Russian No 45, 7 Nov 84 p 840

[Decree No 798 of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the Awarding of  
Military Ranks]

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

To award the ranks: CHIEF MARSHAL OF AVIATION to Marshal of Aviation Koldunov,  
Aleksandr Ivanovich; GENERAL OF THE ARMY to Colonel General Krivde, Fedot  
Filippovich.

[Signed] Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet K. Chernenko.  
Secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet T. Menteshashvili.  
Moscow, the Kremlin. 31 October 1984. No 1246-XI.

CSO: 1801/94

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ARMED FORCES

JPRS-UMA-85-010  
11 February 1985

#### BRIEFS

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION--This past spring saw a number of new soldiers arrive in our unit, many of whom had only a weak grasp of the Russian language. It was no surprise that at first they fell behind in both their combat and political training. Officer wives Antonina Vasil'yevna Tomilova and Tamara Alekseyevna Yurkova then volunteered to help them. In their Russian language study group the soldiers are reading fiction and political literature, learning poems and debating. Among others who have shown progress are A. Dibirov, an Avar, I. Odinaev, a Tajik, and B. Bekmukhanov, a Kazakh. [Text] [Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 84 p 4] 8963

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NAVAL FORCES

#### BRIEFS

VICE ADM RYABOV IN HAVANA--In conformity with an agreement a detachment of Soviet naval vessels including the destroyer "Otlichnyy," the escort ships "Zadornyy" and "Razitel'nyy," a diesel submarine and a tanker under the command of Vice Admiral V.P. Ryabov will arrive on 29 December for an official friendly visit at the port of Havana. The Soviet sailors will take part in ceremonies dedicated to the national holiday--Liberation Day. [Text] [Moscow KRA SNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 84 p 3]

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SPECIAL TROOPS

EDITORIAL CITES ACHIEVEMENTS, FAILURES IN GARRISON SERVICES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 84 p 1

[Article: "Garrison Services"]

[Text] The army and navy are actively preparing for the new training year. Improvement of garrison services is allocated an important place in this great and multifaceted work, since life persuades us that success in completing the complex and important tasks facing the troops and naval forces depends in many ways on the status of these services. The responsibilities of those who organize garrison services is quite understandably high, no matter where in our country or beyond it a garrison might be.

As is spelled out in the regulations, garrison services have the purpose of insuring maintenance of high military discipline among garrison personnel, and the necessary conditions for the daily life and training of the troops and for garrison measures conducted with their participation. These services are managed by the garrison chief. Responsibility for the status of garrison services in subordinated troops is also carried by all direct chiefs, who are obligated to do everything they can to promote reinforcement of military discipline and order in the garrison.

Many examples of efficient organization of garrison services may be cited. In particular, this task is being carried out competently in the garrison of the city of Ryazan. An analysis would persuade us that the success here is in many ways the product of the high responsibility shown by garrison officials for their work, and of their active, purposeful efforts to prevent violations. Hero of the Soviet Union Major General A. Slyusar', the garrison chief and the chief of the Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School imeni Leninskiy Komsomol, is doing much in support of this effort. Working in close contact with local party and soviet organs, and competently leading garrison officials, he efficiently solves all problems that arise. The status of military discipline and sentry duty is systematically analyzed in the garrison, measures to improve the former are promptly implemented, and adequate concern is displayed for maintaining military cemeteries, graves and military monuments. Garrison officials actively participate in military-patriotic indoctrination of young people.

As we know, the garrison military commandant plays a major role in improving garrison services. He is directly responsible for maintaining high military



discipline among servicemen in public places and on streets, for organizing patrols and for dependably protecting garrison facilities. Most military commandants manage their responsibilities successfully. Among them as an example is the military commandant of the garrison of the city of Rovno, Officer M. Boldyrev. Personally and by way of his subordinates, he persistently fights for strict compliance with discipline and order in public places and on streets, and with the rules of wearing the uniform and paying military courtesies by all servicemen. The military commandant's administration maintains close ties with the subunit commanders, police organs and the staffs of people's detachments for maintenance of public order.

Experience persuades us that order is always greater in garrisons in which the patrol service is better organized. This is achieved through a sensible combination of foot patrols and patrols on motorcycles or motor vehicles, and through efficient and specific statement of their missions. We must naturally always remember that unfailing compliance with laws and military regulations lies at the basis of the activity of patrols. Being unbending in their requirements in service-related matters, they are called upon to serve as examples of discipline, military bearing, endurance, respect and tactfulness.

The status of garrison services depends in many ways on the way travel of the motor transportation of the military units is organized. The chief of the garrison's military motor vehicle inspection is responsible for this. One of the most important parts of his work is systematic surveillance over compliance with traffic regulations, over the technical condition of motor vehicles, over their proper use, and over the condition and appearance of drivers. Traffic discipline is higher wherever inspectors of the military motor vehicle inspection constantly feel the support of the garrison chief and the unit commanders, and wherever they work in close coordination with local organs of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection.

Unfortunately, there are still many shortcomings both in the work of preventing motor vehicle accidents in garrisons and on nearby roads, and in organizing garrison services in general. Some military commandants--for example the commandant of the garrison of the city of Nakhichevan, Major P. Lysenko--do not maintain strong ties with subunit commanders and chiefs of troop services contained within the garrison, or with local organs of authority, and they do not delve deeply enough into the causes of various violations. Subunits and persons appointed to garrison details are not always prepared for their work at an adequate level, their work is not maintained under effective surveillance, and the needed effort to raise vigilance and insure maintenance of military and state secrets is not conducted. Sometimes it happens that certain officers on garrison detail misbehave and fail to show due responsibility for their work.

Such things are impermissible. Further improvement of garrison services is inseparably associated with raising the responsibility of officials for their work. This must be the target of indoctrination work carried out by commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations. We must persistently fight to see that each communist and Komsomol member would serve as an example of exemplary service on garrison details, and of faultless

behavior both in the unit and outside it. Efficient work by all garrison services, organization of interesting and rich leisure time for soldiers, meticulous briefing of individuals leaving the unit and maximum utilization of the possibilities provided by garrison cultural and educational institutions are of great importance to preventing violations of military order in the garrison.

To attentively analyze the status of garrison services and place the reserves of their improvement into action means to promote successful completion of the tasks placed before the armed forces in the new training year and to raise the combat readiness of the army and navy.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

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(signed to press 10 Sep 84) p 2

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CIVIL DEFENSE

KUYBYSHEV PLANT STAGES CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISE

PM02114 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 84 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Reserve Private V. Bekasov under the rubric "Civil Defense":  
"Exercise at the Installation"]

[Text] The prolonged sound of the siren rose above the usual noise of operating machinery. The air raid alarm signal was immediately carried over the plant's radio system speakers. This was how a specialized tactical exercise of nonmilitarized civil defense formations began in one of the shops at the "Kuybyshevburmash" Production Association.

The first thing the specialists did was to shut off the long-distance gas pipeline and switch off the electric power network. Silence fell on the shop in a matter of minutes. The workers stopped their machines, seized protective gear, and donned their gas masks.

Everyone acted quickly and precisely. Everyone was well aware of his post and task on receiving the warning signal. Some went to the shelters, others took up their combat positions as members of the firefighting and salvage teams or the shop's medical company, ready to execute their set tasks.

"The enterprise is at the center of a nuclear explosion," V. Gvozdev, association deputy general director for civil defense matters, brought the shop's chief up to date on the situation.

The appropriate conditions were created in an area specially set aside for the exercise: obstructions and debris were set up, a fire was raging, everything was covered in thick smoke....

First to arrive was the reconnaissance patrol headed by the shop's power engineering specialist V. Uskov. Reconnaissance team members P. Shiyarov and M. Pavkin did not find it easy, but they acted firmly and skillfully. Meter by meter, observing the safety precautions, they inspected the area. The knowledge and habits acquired during the year in civil defense training were displayed. All three have benefited from army tempering. Shiyarov, for example, served as a chemical reconnaissance patrol member. He has considerable experience in work with personal protection equipment and with radiation and chemical reconnaissance instruments.

"We are at the center of destruction," the reconnaissance patrol reported to salvage team commander N. Tarabin. This was followed by a detailed situation report.

The firefighters and salvage operators then got down to work. Opening up their path with streams of fire extinguishing fluid, they made their way through the fire to the shelter exits. The obstructions were quickly cleared with bulldozers. "Victims" lay buried beneath the debris. The role of victims was played by dolls with signs on them indicating the extent of damage and the "wounds" inflicted.

First and foremost, the salvage workers insured fresh air supplies in the premises. Then they undertook the evacuation of the "wounded." The medical team headed by L. Petrova brought out a doll with a "damaged leg artery and severe hemorrhaging" from the center of the strike. Each second was precious. Tourniquets and bandages were pulled out of cases instantaneously.... The bandaging was done accurately and skillfully.

Other "wounded" arrived at the field medical center. The actions of the medical company members were carefully observed by the shop's technology specialist and, during this exercise, by medical company commander A. Ruleva.

Meanwhile, the firefighters successfully concluded their duel with the fire, and the obstacles were cleared.

But a new emergency arose: The enterprise was in danger of flooding. The fighters from the shop's nonmilitarized civil defense formations had to evacuate the workers and insure the safety of technical blueprints.... They tackled their work as soon as the first warning came.

During the exercise the fighters from the nonmilitarized civil defense formations had to execute quite a few complex tasks to protect people and material assets. In each instance they demonstrated high standards of training and skill and firm physical and mental tempering.

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MILITARY HISTORY

LT GEN MAL'TSEV ON 1944 BALTIC FRONT OPERATIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Nov 84 p 6

[Article by Lieutenant General P. Mal'tsev: "Breakthrough to the Sea, Chronicle of a Heroic National Achievement"]

[Text] Forty years ago today, November 24, 1944, saw the conclusion of the Baltic strategic offensive operation. The Memel operation conducted by forces of the 1st Baltic Front, which broke through to the Baltic Sea, cutting the Hitlerite Army Group "North" off from East Prussia, constituted a critical phase of this operation.

This fighting restored one of the last sections of the USSR state border, which had been so perfidiously violated by the Hitlerite aggressors on June 22, 1941.

Prior to the beginning of the Baltic operation, formations of our 51st Army, in which I served at that point as chief of the operations department of the 1st Guards Rifle Corps, were engaged in fighting northwest of Elgava. We were assigned the task of breaking through to the coast of the Gulf of Riga and cutting the line of communications linking the enemy's Baltic grouping with East Prussia.

At the end of July formations of our corps joined the battle for Elgava, which the Hitlerites had turned into a heavily defended strong point. Nothing, however, could stop our forces.

While our corps was engaged in the fighting for Elgava, the 3d Guards Mechanized Corps under the command of Guards Lieutenant General V. Obukhov were advancing rapidly toward the coast of the Gulf of Riga. Operating directly ahead of them was the Colonel S. Kremer's mechanized brigade. Advancing almost 100 kilometers in the course of a single night, it broke through to Tukums and in a brief but fiercely fought engagement captured this critical road junction linking Riga with East Prussia.

The coast of the Gulf of Riga was now less than 20 kilometers away. A special detachment comprising a motorized rifle company and a tank platoon under the command of Guards Captain V. Smotrov quickly advanced the remaining distance and by the morning of July 31 was able finally to cut the coastal road in the vicinity of Klapkalns.

The Hitlerite Army Group "North" had thus been cut off. But, unfortunately, it didn't stay cut off for long. As we went over to the defensive, we found ourselves unable to create a continuous front line at this point, the forces of two corps proving inadequate for this. The Hitlerites were able to take advantage of our situation. Having concentrated two strong groupings of five divisions each in the neighborhood of Tukums and Shyaulyay, they counterattacked; they were able to pinch our lines apart at this point and establish a corridor linking their Baltic grouping with Army Group "Center." The enemy then resolved to maintain this "Riga corridor," as it was called, at all costs.

But while the Hitlerites had been able to concentrate powerful forces at Riga, they found the Memel sector had been weakened. The Soviet command now resolved to take advantage of this situation.

General of the Army I. Bagration arrived at our corps command post at the beginning of October. The front commander familiarized us with the plan which had been developed by the Stavka. The mission consisted in regrouping the main forces of the front under concealment from the Riga sector to the Memel sector, break through to the Baltic Sea and the northern border of East Prussia and again cut Army Group "North" off from it.

Accomplished over the course of several days while we continued our offensive, this regrouping was one of the most brilliant and dramatic operations of the Great Patriotic War. The following figures will give some idea of the scale of this operation: over half a million men, 9300 guns and mortars and 1340 tanks and self-propelled guns were transported 80-240 kilometers over a period of six days.

To do this without the enemy's being able to detect what was under way was, of course, no simple matter. A great deal of attention was therefore given to operational-tactical camouflage and deception. Our corps, for example, kept up intensive efforts to make it appear as though we were preparing for an attack on Riga. During the daytime we would move tank units and artillery to forward positions and conduct intensive reconnaissance and patrol operations. Then at night our corps formations would break camp and withdraw to Shyaulyay.

Aviators of the 3d Air Army rendered our forces great assistance. They conducted intensive reconnaissance, provided air cover for the regrouping of our front armies in a new sector and prevented enemy air attacks on our forces concentrating for the offensive.

Our corps had been assigned to operate in the direction of the main attack. This attack was launched along a narrow front only 18 kilometers wide. On the other hand, roughly half of all the men, weapons and equipment assigned to the front, were concentrated here.

We conducted intensive party-political activities during this period with the objective of instilling an aggressive, fighting spirit in our troops. Material the press published from the Special State Commission to Investigate Fascist Crimes had a powerful effect on the morale of our forces. The hearts of our troops and officers alike filled to overflowing with pain and anger when they learned that in Zhagar, not far from the area in which we were to launch our upcoming attack, the Hitlerite butchers had bestially massacred several thousand Soviet citizens.



Every one of us was filled with resolve to revenge ourselves upon the enemy, to drive him from our native land as quickly as possible and then to finish him off in his own lair. We all threw ourselves into the battle. These days also saw hundreds of our troops submit applications requesting that they be accepted into the ranks of the party.

Artillery preparation for the attack began at 1110 on October 5. If the salvos from our heavy guns and rocket launchers made the ground tremble under our own feet, it is not hard to imagine what effect they were having in the Hitlerites' tactical defense zone. Advance formations of the 6th Guards and 43d armies broke through it on the very first day and advanced as far as 30 kilometers.

The 19th Tank Corps and the 5th Guards Tank Army were brought in to help exploit the breakthrough. The 4th Shock, the 2d Guards and our 51st Army now joined the battle.

Mobile detachments operated ahead of the attackers. Under the command of Lieutenant D. Yaremchuk, one of them was able to make its way to a bridge over the Krokhenta, which the Hitlerites had already prepared for demolition. While our tanks broke down the enemy roadblocks, combat engineers were able to cut the fuses. Finding themselves surrounded, our valiant men beat back more than 10 enemy attacks, but they were still able to hold the bridge until the arrival of the main force.

Leading our corps attack was an advance group comprising a rifle, a tank and a self-propelled artillery regiment of the 346th Guards Rifle Division. On October 8 it took the town of Tel'shyay. By the following day, units of our corps and the 10th Rifle Corps were astride the Libava (Livepaya)-Memel' (Klaypeda) highway.

The sixth day of the offensive was really the critical day. This was the point at which forces on this front broke through to the Baltic Sea. The 5th Guards Tank Army was with particular success. Troops of this army's 29th Tank Corps were the first to reach the sea here in the area of Karbel'bek and Palanga.

Later on toward evening, troops of our corps' 848th Rifle Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel P. Lipacheva were also washing their sweaty, smoke-blackened faces in the sea. They had broken through to the coast near Rutsava.

The Hitlerite command's plan to keep the Baltic in its hands at any price was coming undone at all seams. The hopes of Hitler and General Schoerner, who had a reputation as a master at establishing defenses that held. General Friessner, who having been placed in command of Army Group North, also proved unable to contain the Soviet offensive, which was now gaining in both momentum and breadth.

After breaking through to the sea, our army was assigned the task of attacking Latvians with the objective of helping to tighten the blockade around the Hitlerite grouping on the Kurland peninsula. The enemy was still strong; he had not yet abandoned his hope of breaking through to East Prussia and was launching one counter-attack after another. All such attempts, however, were ground to dust against the courage and steadfastness of our Soviet fighting men.

Senior Sergeant P. Atamonvoskiy of the 77th Rifle Division performed a truly heroic heroic feat during the fighting to repel one of these counterattacks. He alone remained of a machine gun crew in a trench which had already been "ironed" out several times by tanks, but he refused to yield an inch. This valiant fighting man continued with one well-aimed burst after another to eliminate the Hitlerites, who themselves continued to press their attack. When he ran out of ammunition he blew himself up with his last grenade, taking the fascists attacking him with him in the process. Senior Sergeant Atamanovski was posthumously awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union for this act.

Our forces along this front had to continue beating back a number of enemy counterattacks from East Prussia as well. Troops of the 43d and 2d Guards Armies spent several days locked in bitter fighting with approaching Hitlerite reserves from Army Group Center. The enemy divisions were bled white as a result. They began a hasty withdrawal back over the Nieman. This gave our forces a chance to consolidate a position on this river.

Forces of the 1st Baltic Front accomplished their mission in the Memel operation precisely as assigned — the German Army Group North had been cut off. Remnants were blockaded in Kurland, where they capitulated in May 1945.

The motherland paid her homage to the men who participated in this operation and their heroic deeds. Many units and formations on this front were awarded orders and honorary designations. Thousands of officers and men were awarded medals and orders.

But the greatest honor for all of us that November came in the form of the words of Order No. 220 of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief: "The heroic efforts of the Red Army and the Soviet people have cleansed our land of the German fascist aggressors. The Soviet state border, so perfidiously violated by the Hitlerite hordes on June 22, 1941, has now been reestablished along its full length from the Black to the Barents Sea."

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MILITARY HISTORY

COMMAND VIEWS ON 1942 USE OF FRONTAL AVIATION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Major S. Levitskiy: "The Air Army Commander, Men Who Made History"]

[Text] In an air regiment which during the Great Patriotic War formed part of the 16th Air Army I recall hearing someone remark one time that the army commander, Marshal of Aviation Sergey Ignat'yevich Rudenko was going to visit us .... I told Sergey Ignat'yevich what he was called within the regiment. He smiled:

"Well, I can understand my young comrades-in-arms. Deep down in my heart of hearts I feel myself to be that restless, driving 16th Army commander ...."

You can't recall events in isolation from the people involved in them. The creation of our air armies in May of 1942 constituted an important milestone in the development of Soviet military art and of our Armed Forces. And among the commanders at the very roots of this development who had a solid grasp of the practical demands imposed by the difficult wartime experience was Sergey Ignat'yevich.

By the end of January 1942, Major General of Aviation Rudenko, commander of Kalinin Front aviation, had only 96 operational aircraft remaining at his disposal. But he could not always get even these in the air because of bad flying weather. Forces on the Kalinin Front were engaged in heavy fighting on the approaches to Rzhev, and the situation was heating up. Things were getting difficult for the young commander responsible for the frontal aviation.

On one occasion Colonel General I. Konev, the front commander appeared at the advance base and immediately began making demands on Major General of Aviation Rudenko: "The aircraft must take off!" "They can't do it," Sergey Ignat'yevich replied with conviction. Konev spared the frontal aviation commander spared no strong words in reply.

Rudenko showed the tape of the conversations with him to General P. Zhigarev, commander of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army Air Force, who also happened to be at the command post. The latter, however, not wanting to deprive the young commander of the frontal aviation of any operational initiative, replied: "Take care of it yourself. I'm not going get involved here."

Sergey Ignat'yevich then prepared a report for the front commander. The report contained some fairly harsh language: ground forces commanders didn't understand how aviation should be employed; they sent aircraft into action without taking account of the conditions under which the pilots can operate and they were trying to use aviation against small targets. If they were going to fight this way, they weren't going to see their aircraft last a day ....

Rudenko knew Ivan Stepanovich had a short fuse. After he sent off the report he asked Konev's messenger with some trepidation: "What kind of humor's the commander in now?" "He read the report but didn't say a word about it," came the reply. The next day Rudenko was summoned to a conference at front headquarters. "OK, now hold your ground," he thought to himself. Konev did the talking. He addressed the ground forces commanders with unconcealed dissatisfaction: "You don't know how to use your aviation. What do you think you're doing with it? You expect it to go everywhere with you on wheels like artillery. You don't take weather conditions into account. The powerful, but very costly weapon has to be employed in massed formations in the critical sectors ...."

This support from the front commander showed Rudenko that if you're right, you don't have anything to fear. You simply have to know how to take a courageous stand for the good of the cause.

The principle of the massed employment of aviation had long since been elaborated as a principle of military art. The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army Field Service Regulations of 1936 had already said that aviation should be employed in massed formations to achieve maximum effectiveness. Back before the war, our party and government had taken steps to create new aviation units and formations and to arm and equip them with powerful weapons. But the war caught the air force in this rearmament phase. Of 106 air regiments planned it had been able to activate only 19. This was inadequate, of course. Our aviation had been broken up and assigned to various corps, armies and fronts. This employment in "atomized" form, so to speak, was causing Rudenko a great deal of concern, of course.

Heavy defensive fighting had left virtually all army aviation units without aircraft. Army commanders were urgently requesting aircraft for their own air forces. But to turn over frontal aviation to them would disperse this resource even more. In February 1942, Supreme Command Headquarters decided to transfer units of frontal aviation to the armies. At that point Rudenko was called to Moscow. He was received by Stalin.

"Our aviation is being very poorly employed," he began. "Our aviators are barbarous. They don't want to learn how to use modern instruments. They're still flying by reference points on the ground, along rivers and rail lines. They get lost a lot and don't make it to their targets. All this reduces the effectiveness of our attacks from the air. Why are you people up there at the front operating this way?"

"We're not operating this way," Rudenko replied. Then began another serious talk about how aviation should, when necessary, be gathered into a "fist." The supreme commander then came to the point:



"We want to put you in command of an air group which will be at the disposal of the Stavka of the Supreme High Command. We have decided to organize this group so we can keep the aviation in our own hands. Otherwise the front commanders won't always be able to get the most effective use out of it. They scatter it, a little here, a little there.... Will you be able to take charge of a group like this?"

This was just the kind of air support they had always wanted at the front! "I will," Rudenko answered resolutely. And the order appointing him to this position was signed on the spot.

Units of the Stavka's new air strike group carried a number of massive attacks against the enemy. Rudenko had never before had to organize operations like this. The effectiveness of these missions, however, confirmed predictions--this was the right way to use your aviation. Major General of Aviation Rudenko had now proved that he had been right. And he was now all of 37 years old.

In the fall of 1942 Sergey Ignat'yevich was again summoned to Moscow. He now learned that an 8th Air Army was in process of formation and that he had been appointed deputy to the new commander, Hero of the Soviet Union General T. Khryukin. The reasonable Rudenko was now going to have to "function" with a hot-headed commander. The common objective, however, quickly drew them together in harmonious collaboration. The resolution and thorough planning in Khryukin's operations made them models for emulation.

In August 1942, in accordance with a Stavka directive, Rudenko was put in charge of the task of forming the 16th Air Army. By September 4, 1942 he was signing his Operational Order No. 1 to all units.

The 16th Air Army saw action in the battle for Stalingrad. The army at that time comprised four air divisions and two separate air regiments -- 152 combat operational aircraft. And from that point on, the organization grew stronger and stronger, invariably finding itself operating along the axis of the main thrust. The battle for Kursk, the Belorussian, Warsaw-Poznan, Eastern Pomeranian and Berlin operations -- Rudenko commanded the army in all these actions. During the Berlin operation, the 16th Air Army comprised 30 air divisions and more than 3000 combat aircraft. Over 200 of the army's aviators were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, among them the commander himself.

"We should still be keeping in mind the combat experience accumulated by our air armies during the Great Patriotic War even today," Sergey Ignat'yevich insists with conviction. "Particularly the questions involving the organization of cooperation between aviation and the ground forces. And by the way, our combined arms commanders still dispose of their own aviation, and they, too, have now to learn how to employ it effectively.... This is the hardest part--to be able to take everything necessary into consideration ahead of time, to be able foresee things and then to attack the enemy in a manner he can't anticipate...."

Rudenko and his old comrades-in-arms have recalled operation "Bagration" as an example of just this. It had been under way for some time before the aviation and artillery began their attacks against the enemy.

When Rudenko learned that his air army had been made part of the 1st Belorussian front he knew immediately that many of his missions were going to require new approaches. The commander resolved above all to continue the struggle to maintain air superiority over the enemy so as not to give him an opportunity to regain the initiative. He was also faced with the task of organizing detailed preparations for the operation within all units of the army. Rudenko had to deal with a great many problems. Our ground formations operating on the right flank and in the center, for example, were initially separated by the Berezina River. This means, Rudenko reflected, that we're going to need two air groups to penetrate the enemy defenses. What's the best way to mass our forces in the air in two sectors without any delays?

Together with the army chief of staff, General P. Brayko, and the chief of the operations department, Colonel I. Ostrovskiy, the air commander prepared detailed plans covering the basing of our units and formations in the forming up area and providing for the construction of new airfields. The most experienced crews were assigned the task of flying over our positions in a systematic pattern and then reporting on the effectiveness of our camouflage.

Rudenko ordered the organization of intensive combat training in all units and formations. Crews made familiarization flights along the front line without, however, crossing it. The aviators then spent some time in the trenches the ground forces would be occupying and at the fire positions of our artillery, both of which they were going to be cooperating with.

The commander brought preparations for the operation to a close with an exercise involving participation by the formation commanders and chiefs of staff. Rudenko was concluding the month and a half of intensive staff preparations in a spirit of competition. All participants reported out their solutions in passionate rivalry with one another.

Then, at the appointed time the enemy found himself under a powerful, coordinated attack from the air.

Sergey Ignat'yevich's energy is truly something to be envied. He is now 80 years old. He has been awarded his sixth high state medal. An award honoring his great service to the motherland and his contribution to her military development, which had already been recognized in the form of 15 orders of the USSR. During the post-war period he has served as commandant of the Air Academy imeni Yu. A. Gagarin, commanded our long-range aviation, headed up the Main Air Force Staff and served as first deputy chief of staff of the Air Force. Many recall the principled, business-like Marshal of Aviation Rudenko when he was a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee elected by the 22d Party Congress and the tactful, compassionate deputy, continuously duty-minded in his military way, of the 2d and 6th convocations of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He is now military inspector and advisor with the general inspectors group of the USSR Ministry of Defense and chairman of Central Staff of the All-Union Komsomol and Youth Tour to Important Sites in the Revolutionary, Military and Labor History of the Communist Party and the Soviet People. Professor Rudenko is a member of the senior editorial committee for the "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy voyny 1939-1945" [History of the Second World War 1939-1945]. He always has a lot of irons in the fire. His days are sometimes scheduled by the minutes. He gives us a detailed account of his days with the 16th Air Army in his book, "Kryl'ya

Pobedy" [Wings of Victory"]. This book is the story of how a young lad from the little village of Korop [now in Chernigov Oblast] took the Komsomol route to big-time aviation. A communist since 1928, Rudenko showed energy and firm adherence to principle both in the air and in the classroom. This the way his comrades-in-arms and fellow servicemen have known him in any situation. Let me pass on some stories you won't find in the marshal of aviation's book.

After the war, in 1947, Sergey Ignat'yevich commanded aviation for the Belorussian Military District. Jet aircraft were then coming into the inventory. Plans for assimilating and mastering this new aircraft were proceeding on schedule without any hitches. Then one day one of the unit commanders reports that "we've got a women's uprising on our hands out there!" "What do you mean? Go see what's going on. The division commander just left to go see you." "But the pilots' wives just want to talk to the commander." At that, Rudenko left immediately for the garrison. As it turned out, there was "a rumor going around" that flying jet aircraft ruined a pilot's health. Sergey Ignat'yevich took the time for a frank, exhaustive discussion with these women. The rumor then "disappeared" .... But could he really have simply brushed aside such an apparently trivial thing?

"Certainly not," Rudenko said with a twinkle in his blue eyes. "If you overlook something in a staff document, regardless of how trivial you might think it is at the time, it's going to come back and haunt you and cause no end of trouble during an operation or an exercise. But here, people were involved. And that's even more complicated ...."

More complicated it certainly is .... Rudenko was convinced of the truth of this the following year when he was given an "unusual" assignment ....

"Who should command our airborne forces?" he was asked in Moscow. "We don't have enough commanders with jump training. That means a pilot's going to have to take over. So, you take the airborne troops ...."

There was a lot to give Rudenko pause here, considering the fact that he was now going to be in command of the "flying infantry." You have to learn how to speak to these men in the own lingo, as it were.

So he began with himself. Rudenko spent several days learning how to pack a parachute. He then invited his commanders and political officers by turns into a special office equipped with airborne "paraphernalia." There then followed a series of one-on-one conversations. What they talked about he never said, but nobody was left with any grudge against Sergey Ignat'yevich. From point on, every individual in the airborne forces learned to pack his parachute "the pilot's" way, every man for himself. Then there were jumps for the commanders, because until then many officers had never jumped.

The airborne exercise which followed shortly thereafter came off without a hitch. So, many traditions which Rudenko initiated have come to be an ingrained part of the airborne way of life.

"It wasn't just me as an individual who was responsible for these things," Sergey Ignat'yevich says. "When new situations develop and you're still taking your old approaches, the situation's going to overpower you and you won't be able to accomplish anything.... Weigh everything, think the whole situation through, make the

the necessary decisions boldly and resolutely and, and this is the most important thing, make sure all your subordinates understand completely what you're doing — this is the way every commander should operate."

Today Marshal of Aviation Rudenko watches our modern aircraft take off and in the organization of our intensive pilot training programs can see with pride much of what he and his colleagues did for this right after the war, back at the very dawn of the jet age during the period of radical change in Soviet aviation. Our young pilots meet the renowned marshal of aviation and front-line air army commander at the air base and their steps on the path to the missile-carrying aircraft and the skies of the motherland, to the defense of which Sergey Ignat'yevich Rudenko has devoted his entire life.

8963

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

HISTORY, SPECIFICATIONS OF MIDGET SUBMARINES DISCUSSED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Oct 84 p 3

[Article by Capt 1st Rank A. Mikhaylov and Capt 2d Rank B. Tyurin: "Midget Submarines"]

[Text] Underwater commando-type reconnaissance operations using special subunits of frogmen and the tactics and technical resources of conducting them have been under development by the navies of capitalist states for many decades now. Midget submarines, man-torpedoes, exploding craft, divers outfitted in shallow-water diving gear and supplied with blasting charges--all of these were in the inventories of Germany, Italy, the United States, Great Britain and Japan as far back as World War II.

July 1945. The Japanese cruisers Takao and Mioko, well-guarded, are moored in Singapore Harbor. It seemed that nothing threatened their safety. Then on the night of 30 July, the mooring sight was shaken by a deafening explosion. As foreign press later subsequently reported, the bottom was blown out of the cruiser Takao. It sat squarely on the bottom and remained in this position until the end of the war.

This is how former American naval submarine officer W. Holmes told about this operation, which was a mystery for the Japanese, in his book.

The U.S. Navy command seriously feared that the two heavy Japanese cruisers might affect the success of the forthcoming operations in the southwestern part of the Pacific Ocean. The British suggested destroying them with the aid of their midget submarines, which had to penetrate the harbor and carry out the subversion. Many specialists regarded this plan as genuine suicide, but no one suggested another.

The XE-1 and XE-3 British midget submarines were towed into an area near Singapore Harbor at night. Early in the morning, the XE-3 negotiated the channel and reached the gates to the boom defenses of the harbor. Having safely passed them, the submarine spotted the cruiser Takao, well-camouflaged by the surrounding landscape. At 1532 hours, the submarine sent out a diver who attached six sabotage mine detonators to the keel of the cruiser. After this, the XE-3 passed under the bottom of the ship and dropped the main charges under its keel.

The XE-1 submarine repeated the path of the XE-3, but was not able to approach the second Japanese cruiser Mioko. It was then decided to duplicate the actions of the XE-3 crew....

The history of World War II knows many such subversions. They were also accomplished in subsequent years. Citing the experience of combat operations in Korea in Southeast Asia and during the Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Falkland Islands and analyzing the major maneuvers conducted in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, foreign military experts contend that commando-type reconnaissance subunits equipped with the appropriate equipment can have a substantial effect on the conduct of amphibious assault operations and inflict considerable damage on enemy ships and coastal installations. Midget submarines in this case are considered to be one of the main equipment resources of such subunits.

Abroad, those submarines whose displacement does not exceed 100 tons (photo 1) are classified as midget submarines. In the opinion of foreign specialists, the multipurpose designation of these submarines must be incorporated even in the very design of them. Besides transporting frogmen (commando-type reconnaissance groups), they must be suited for antisubmarine defense, fighting enemy surface ships and vessels in coastal zones as well as in the open seas, to be able to mine the channel and narrows in exits from the harbors and so forth. It is said that midget submarines must provide for the capability of exchanging armament--mines, torpedoes, missiles and also equipment for transporting frogmen.

Foreign military specialists believe that midget submarines basically will perform their missions in the coastal regions of the seas at shallow depths. At the same time, they must have not only high maneuverability but also good seagoing qualities and cruise endurance of at least 10 days.

Small, special-purpose submersibles (photo 2) are also being developed which are used to conduct a variety of underwater surveillance and to organize training of frogmen.

By construction design, midget submarines are both two-hull and saddle-tank. They are called this because the pressure hull can be completely (two-hull) or partially (saddle-tank) covered by a light shell giving the ship seaworthy qualities and serving to accommodate both the diving and variable ballast tanks.

Saddle-tank submarines are usually made in the shape of a large diameter cylinder changing to a spindle-shaped design at the stern. Two-hull submarines consist of large and small diameter hulls placed one on top of the other.

The magazine NAVY INTERNATIONAL describes the Italian SX-404 and SX-506 submarines and also a new design which has been given the designation SX-756.

According to data published in foreign press, this submarine has a displacement of about 80 tons and is 25.2 meters long and 2.62 meters wide.

Surface speed is 8.5 knots (full) and 7 knots (cruising). Maximum submerged speed is 6 knots. Its diving depth is 100 meters. Surface range is 1,600 miles and submerged range is 60 miles. Its endurance is 7-12 days. In addition to the 6-man crew, the submarine can also accommodate 8 frogmen.

The SX-756 is a two-hull type. The pressure hull in which the main machinery and equipment are installed and the crew and frogmen are situated is made of steel. The light shell which gives the submarine a streamlined shape is made of fiberglass. The pressure hull consists of two cylinders positioned one above the other. The living and working spaces, power plant, basic instrumentation and equipment are located in the first. The second contains the storage batteries and the fuel and ballast tanks. In the opinion of foreign specialists, such a hull shape provides the submarine with good seagoing qualities when running primarily on the surface.

The main hull of the submarine is divided into three compartments by bulkheads: the forward (crew spaces), central and engine compartments. As the power plant the submarine utilizes a surface running engine (300-hp diesel) and a submerged-running engine (55-hp electric motor). The standard complement of equipment includes a gyro compass, periscope, underwater telephone communications, automatic controls, main and auxiliary sonars, automatic direction finder and wide-band radio communications equipment. Reviewers note that the SX-756 submarine can be additionally equipped with satellite communications equipment.

A few words about the submarine's armament. In the standard variant there are 6 large Mk21 demolition charges (300 kg of explosives in each) and 11 small Mk11 demolition charges (50 kg of explosives in each). In addition, the armament may include 40 limpet mines, 2-4 single torpedo tubes, bottom mines, 6 containers in which weapons, ammunition and other frogmen equipment are packed and underwater towing equipment.

Judging from reports in the magazines MILITARTECHNIK and NAVY INTERNATIONAL, the FRG is also actively working on development of midget submarines. The IKL design bureau and the shipbuilding enterprise Rheinstahl Nordseewerke are engaged in producing them. These organizations have developed the submarine projects "70", "Piranha" and the MSV-75. These submarines have small dimensions (roughly the same as the Italian submarines). The size of the crew and the number of frogmen that can be transported are also similar. But whereas the Project "70" submarine's diving depth is limited to 100 meters and its surface range is 1,000 miles at a speed of 6 knots (which is generally close to the Italian midget submarines), the press indicates somewhat different data for the MSV-75 submarine: a diving depth of 130 meters and a surface range of 2,900 miles at a speed of 4 knots.

According to the magazine INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW, the MSV-75 has two-hull construction made of three units bolted together. This is done so as to make it possible to transport the submarine disassembled and assemble it on docks in any region of the world ocean. In addition, when using the submarine in the torpedo variant, an additional section 2.4 meters long equipped with torpedo fire control instruments can be installed between the forward and central units.

Project "70" is classified as a saddle-tank design. One of this submarine's most prominent distinguishing features is the highly developed hull superstructure where a diesel recharging trunk and an air-lock chamber for disembarking and receiving frogmen are installed. Special recesses are provided in the upper part of the outer hull where replacement armament is installed on brackets. Its complement is planned to include cruise anti-shiping missiles launched from the submarine in the surfaced position.

It is reported in the foreign press that British designers are working jointly with specialists from the FRG to build a midget submarine.

Besides midget submarines, it is envisioned that special transport vehicles designed for one, two or three men (photo 3) will be used for secret delivery of frogmen to the place of sabotage. They are a further development of so-called man-torpedoes from World War II. Having practically the same technical characteristics, these vehicles differ in diving depth and the extent of navigation equipment.

The CE2F/X60 weighs 2,400 kg and is 7 meters long and 0.8 meters wide. Its speed is 4.5 knots and range is 50 kilometers. An electric motor operating on lead-acid storage batteries is used as the power plant. Four forward and two reverse speeds are provided. When underway, the divers are located in a cabin enclosed by a transparent acrylic plastic hood. They connect their own individual breathing apparatus to the onboard breathing system of the transporter.

The United States is also developing underwater frogmen transport equipment. The Dart apparatus is one of them. Externally, it is a torpedo-shaped launch made of nonmagnetic material (fiberglass). Two transparent canopies are provided to protect the crew from the opposite water current. The transporter has a speed of 8 knots and an endurance of 3.5 hours. Several modifications of the "Minisub" type underwater transporter exist. This vehicle can also be used for surface navigation. It surfaces and submerges with the aid of ballast tanks which can be filled with outside water and purged by compressed air of the onboard system.

Similar means for transporting frogmen have also been developed in other capitalist countries.

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AFGHANISTAN

IZVESTIYA REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN DRA PROVINCE

PM281312 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by G. Ustinov, IZVESTIYA correspondent: "In the Mountains of Ghwr Province"]

[Text] Chaghcharan, Kabul--The plane from Herat was coming in to land when three deafening shots made us jump up from the hard metallic seats. Abdul Aziz, first secretary of the Ghwr Province PDPA committee, who was sitting next to me, looked in astonishment at the jagged hole which had appeared in the body of the machine near his left shoulder. The pilot, leaving the cockpit, ran his finger around it and at once firmly shook Aziz by the hand. "Congratulations on your second birth! They fired from a large-caliber machinegun."

After landing at the small airfield in the province's main city, Chaghcharan, we discovered that another two bullets had lodged in the aircraft's "belly." One of the people meeting the An-12, Soviet officer Vyacheslav Yanovskiy, looking at the holes, said to me reproachfully: "Look where you've come to... Things are not exactly quiet around here."

In the remote province of Ghwr, which is cut off from Kabul and other big cities by the high mountains and lack of roads, there roam dozens of desperate dushman detachments and groups which have been driven out of the republic's major northern and eastern provinces. Only in Chaghcharan itself, which is located on a mountain plateau at an altitude of 2,350 meters, and in one of the province's six districts, Tulak, is there relative calm. Order is maintained by a small Afghan army unit, a people's militia battalion, and a detachment of volunteer defenders of the revolution. The bandits' operations are also hampered by a subunit based here of the limited contingent of Soviet troops, under Major Yanovskiy's command.

Strong and well-built, as a Siberian should be, Vyacheslav Georgiyevich came here from Omsk; he is tanned red by the frosts and winds here. "It's all just the same as in Siberia," he tells me, smoothing his flaxen white hair. "Last winter, minus 43 degrees was recorded. For some months, 2-meter snowdrifts towered over the runway: In winter here there are fogs, whiteouts, not flying weather. But there is no other road to reach us...."

Doubtless that is why it is the first, essential concern of the subunit commander to bring in foodstuffs, reserve stocks of uniform, ammunition, fuel, and even movies sufficient for 6 months ahead. And now capacious drums of gasoline and solar oil have arrived in Chaghch'aran on our plane. At once they are carefully rolled to the garrison dump: This trip is one of the last greetings to the subunit's soldiers from the "outside world." Until next spring.

But of course the main purpose of our trip was something quite different. Comrade (Miyakhel), PDPA Central Committee authorized representative in Afghanistan's three northwestern provinces--Herat, Badghis and Ghowr, Comrade (Sakhi), chief of staff of the Afghan Army 17th Infantry Division which is based in these provinces, and our officers--Vyacheslav Yanovskiy's immediate superiors--have flown here to resolve an important operational task: What to do about the little provincial town of Ahangaran, which is located 30 km from the province center.

However modest the military potential of the people's power in Ghowr Province, however difficult the high mountain conditions here for combat operations, the bandits have been severely shaken here last year and this. First the Afghan Army fighters took Tulak district under revolutionary control. After entrenching themselves firmly there and setting up a large self-defense detachment consisting of 150 villagers in addition to the military and Tsarandoy (militia) garrisons, they went further. They took the important village of (Shaykhenval) from the dushmans. Failing to withstand a bold frontal attack, gang leader (Mamadsho Modzhedi) fled, ignominiously abandoning dead and wounded and an ammunition dump.

Hearing of this, people in the province grew bolder and started raising their voices against the dushmans' domination. Said Omar, chief of the provincial (KHAD) (security organs), introduced me to 40-year-old peasant (Dzhamal). Led by him, the villagers of Kasi village drove away an "Islamic society of Afghanistan" gang which was stationed there.

[PM281313] Then came Ahangaran's turn. It proved no easy matter to drive the bandits out of the province's second biggest and most important district. But it was even more difficult to consolidate positions in the new place. True, the provincial authorities set up local self-government organs, a district party committee, Tsarandoy and People's Army posts--what is known in Afghanistan as the "organizational nucleus." But the counterrevolutionaries, sensing the danger, sent couriers to the neighboring provinces to call for help. By the fall of this year, about 10 large and small gangs numbering a total of more than 1,000 people were concentrated around Ahangaran. They began an all-around siege of the city, and constructed trenches, shelters, dugouts. With strong mortar and grenade-thrower support, the dushmans made several desperate attacks on the ancient fortress where Ahangaran's defenders were. Recently, during one such attack, Muhammad (Dzhuma), first secretary of the district party committee, was killed. In rebuffing the enemy attacks, the fighters of this small garrison suffered substantial losses and used up a large proportion of the ammunition which had been supplied to them, in accordance with local conditions, to last the whole of the coming winter.

What to do about Ahangaran? That question was now under discussion in Abdul Aziz' office, where all the provincial leaders and guests from Herat were assembled. Withdraw all the defenders from the district center for the winter, and start over in spring? Or give Ahangaran urgent assistance, so it can fight? In either case, the stake was high. Surrendering the district center means doing considerable damage to the authority of the people's power and undermining the faith of the province's people in its growing strength.

A tiny district of a small province whose strategic importance is far from paramount... But a serious, concerned discussion of its fate has been underway for more than 2 hours. I have heard so many such discussions in Afghanistan! The people's power, in fighting for the revolution and defending its gains, does not acknowledge that anything is trivial, does not like to act hastily.

..."And your opinion, comrade major?" (Miyakhel), the PDPA Central Committee authorized representative, asks Yanovskiy.

"We have 10-12 days left before the unfavorable flying weather sets in. It seems to me that we should make a last attempt. A few pairs of helicopters could drop human reinforcements and ammunition into Ahangaran. Would you be able to send the machines here from Herat? I think our command will assign transport helicopters to help them?" He looks inquiringly at the chief of a Soviet aviation subunit who came here with us.

"There's one more problem," Abdul Aziz, first secretary of the provincial party committee, says. "If the helicopters fly in with ammunition, they won't be able to bring in fuel for the operation and for the return journey. It is 300 km from Chaghcharan to Herat...."

"We'll give them what was delivered today," Yanovskiy decides. "We aren't living without reserves...."

That is how the discussion about Ahangaran ends. At the same time Afghan Army representatives are planning a strong combat strike against the positions of the dushmans who have encircled the district center. Without this, the success of the whole operation would not be complete. To lead it, it was agreed at the conference, Col (Sakhi), chief of staff of the 17th Division, is to stay here in Ghowr Province.

After the long discussion at the provincial party committee, V.G. Yanovskiy and I set off for a trip around Chaghcharan. It has only five or six little streets, made up of one-story houses made of mud and occasionally stone. Vyacheslav Georgiyevich points to one of them with pride--it is new, spick and span, surrounded by a spacious yard. "That is the pioneer club. The soldiers from our subunit built it. The town has two high schools and one seventh-grade school, and the pioneer organization has been in existence for 2 years now. How can it exist without a place of its own? Here they have clubrooms, a sports complex...."

[PM281314] Comrade Abdul Aziz told me later that despite its modest size, our subunit plays an important role in general in the life of the provincial center, with its population of 7,000. The Soviet servicemen help the local building and road building workers with machinery and fuel. Chaghcharan has a hospital, built a few years ago, but hardly any medical personnel. So the local residents go to our health care unit for treatment. No festival in the city is complete without amateur concerts by the servicemen, sports contests between our servicemen and Afghan servicemen, and our movies.

And if the dushman gangs swoop down on Chaghcharan like carrion crows from the surrounding mountains, Soviet servicemen, together with their Afghan brothers in arms, courageously and staunchly repel their attacks, preserving peace and tranquillity for the townspeople. That has happened more than once. And our soldiers have never once sullied their military honor. Many have received combat awards for their soldierly labor.

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET TROOP LIFE IN DRA DESCRIBED

PM041543 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Dec 84 p 4

[Special correspondent Yu. Dmitriyev article under the rubric "Military Service":  
"There in the Mountains of Afghanistan"]

[Text] Limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan--"write out a pass and give him rations," the chief of staff of the motorized infantry regiment briefly ordered the duty officer. That is how my trip to the servicemen of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan started.

Chief of Staff Major Ivan Rul--a short thickset man with a tenacious and attentive look--is a typical serving officer. He wears an immaculately pressed field uniform, boots, and a pistol on his belt, and when he gets into his "Uazik" truck he pays a submachinegun on his knees. "I graduated from the tank school in Kazan," the major jokes, "and now I am a rockclimber..." He has been here in Afghanistan for more than a year now. When the time comes he has decided to request a transfer to his native Belorussia where to this day his frontline-soldier father and mother live. But meanwhile there are disturbing days and nights in the distant friendly country to which he came to fulfill his duty as an internationalist.

It is a saying in the army that the state of order in a garrison is a reflection of the chief of staff. If this is so, our Belorussian major completely matches his post. A camp is laid out in regular straight lines with its own club and a roomy mess.

In the center of the camp is a wide parade ground. The soldiers approach it not through the dust--of which there is more than enough here--but along asphalted paths. They drink water from a deep hole bored with their own hands and carefully checked by military doctors. Next to the headquarters is a flower bed with a granite bust of V. I. Lenin and a slogan reminding servicemen of the forthcoming 40th anniversary of our great victory over fascism. Everything is arranged according to the regulations and with concern for everyday life and health.

But dark green armored personnel carriers and infantry combat vehicles with guns uncovered stand at the gates of the camp. The soldiers on duty wear bullet-proof jackets. They always carry weapons. This is the soldiers' daily life. It makes itself felt--the undeclared war being waged against people's power by gangs of counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries who penetrate the country's territory from neighboring states, especially Pakistan, dragging with them a mass of all sorts of weapons manufactured in various hostile states.

It was such long-range missiles which the dushmans used recently to shell residential districts of the peaceful city. I heard their deadly hissing wail and the abrupt muffled explosions in the night. And then in the morning I visited the shelled residential district. I saw the scorched gaping craters and the grief on the faces of ordinary Afghans. One missile hit a house and killed three children. The splinters from another missile wounded more than a dozen men, women, and old people. The bandits also attacked with so-called phosphorous rocket shells, setting fire to civilian homes and housing.

The dusty military tunics which have seen a thing or two bear the same awards as those brought back from the war by their grandfathers and fathers, who passed through the fire of Stalingrad and the cruel tank battles near Kursk, who broke the blockade of Leningrad, and who stormed Berlin and liberated Prague. When you see the silver "For courage" or "For combat services" medal on the chest of a 19-year-old youth or the order of the Red Star on the jacket of a beardless 23-year-old lieutenant, you understand that you have before you not simply a serviceman but a real fighter, a hero. Because only the best earn combat awards. Let us listen to these youths, let us get to know them better.

I had a brief talk with Captain Viktor Tkach, holder of the Order of the Red Star. An order came for immediate departure to defend an objective. While speaking to me the captain rapidly put on camouflage coveralls, fur jackets, and cap. Here in the valley the temperature is above freezing but at an altitude of 3,000 meters there are up to 20 degrees of frost and a strong searing wind. Captain Tkach's men were in corresponding [word indistinct] Each of them had up to 30 kg to carry, including canned meat, sugar, bread, and bottles of water. And, of course, pouches with spare sets of cartridges and grenades.

There was a brief parade before boarding the transport helicopters, from which the barrels of guns and machineguns were visible. The captain inspected the soldiers' formation attentively to see if the appropriate dress was correctly adjusted. The men were in good spirits and calm.

Viktor was born and raised in Omsk Oblast's Kalachinskiy Rayon, in the family of frontline soldier Michail Pavlovich Tkach. After secondary school he entered the Omsk M. V. Frunze Higher Combined Arms Command School. He graduated successfully from it and served on the steppes of the Transbaykal, in the Baltic Military District, and on the country's westernmost frontier. And now-- Afghanistan.

It was here in April that Viktor heard by telegram of his father's death. At the time he was carrying out a very difficult mission with a group of soldiers, defending a crucial sector of the road on a remote pass together with a detachment of Afghan servicemen commanded by Senior Lieutenant (Gafar)--Quite a young man boundlessly devoted to the ideals of the April revolution and a sincere friend of our country. The situation at the time was serious. The dushmans kept on shelling the road, mining it in various places, and staging ambushes. On more than one occasion they had to defend themselves and fittingly rebuff the armed jackals. And the fact that at that difficult time he--a competent officer and skillful organizer--did not leave his soldiers and comrades, but stayed with them there on the pass and was always nearby sharing the mortal danger, though he had the right to go home, was appreciated by the soldiers. But Viktor explains his action simply: "My father would have understood and approved."

Many of them were recommended for combat orders and medals after that pass. And soon the commander of the motorized infantry regiment fixed the awards to their jackets in front of the formation of troops.

Captain Tkach departed on his mission. While another captain, Anatoliy Kolchuk, also bearing an Order of the Red Star on his tunic, watched him sadly. I saw him asking the commander: "Let me go on the defense mission, I have been sitting around in the garrison too long..." The commander did not let him: There were things to do here, too. Kolchuk did not know that another, no less important mission awaited him: to ensure the safety of our motor vehicle column which would soon be en route. The commander is confident in him: This officer is one of the most reliable. Last year he distinguished himself together with Captain Fedor Pugachev, company commander, when our servicemen were ambushed in a remote gorge. Mines exploded round about and the dushmans hiding behind rocks raked with fire every natural feature. But the motorized infantry did not lose their heads, they rapidly took up defensive positions, and dislodged the bandits from their "nest."

There were several more difficult moments. Fedor Pugachev became a hero of the Soviet Union and when his time was up he went to serve in one of the oldest military districts in the country. But legends of his bravery are still current here. Once, it is told, when he was already a hero, he fought his way into a blazing armored personnel carrier and saved some valuable apparatus and documents. He did not wait for the special emergency group....

Following the hero's example! The regiment's servicemen are nurtured with this noble motto. Major Viktor Belozerkovskiy, deputy commander for political affairs, introduced me to the regiment's favorites--the twins Vasilii and Valentin Svidenyuk, drafted 2 years ago from Zhitomir Oblast. They both have dark eyes, moustaches, and wild bushy eyebrows--fine bold men indeed. Everything about them is identical. Both of them are gunner operators on infantry combat vehicles, both are Komsomol members and first-class specialists. They fire their own guns and the tank machineguns like true marksmen and have an excellent mastery of the rocket launcher, the submachinegun, and the pistol. They have almost 2 years service and dozens of critical situations to their credit. And, fortunately, not one scratch. The lads will return alive and well to their native village of Malaya Gorbasha, which is in Novograd-Volynskiy Rayon. They have already bought presents--for their mother Zinaida Grigoryevna, an experienced kolkhoz vegetable grower, a brightly decorated shawl, and for their father Grigoriy Larionovich, an honored veterinary doctor, shaving equipment.

"And what do you intend to do as civilians?" I asked the brothers.

"What do you mean?" the lads asked with surprise. "There is loads to do in the countryside. Before army service we graduated from vocational and technical school where we trained as welders."

The Soviet soldier! A [word indistinct]-published and good-hearted man. In whatever very remote region or unusual and difficult circumstances he may be landed by the law of military service, he will always fulfill his filial duty to the fatherland with honor. I was told how our servicemen have saved Afghan children, women, and old people from fire and the dushman's bullets, shared their rations with them, built roads, cleared barriers, and procured water. It is no accident that ordinary Afghan people regard the Soviet lads with gratitude and hope.

And recently, in late November, an event occurred which graphically symbolized the love and respect of the people's power for our servicemen. I witnessed the reception of a group of Soviet men and officers by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. This took place in the presidential palace. "The Afghan people," Comrade Karmal said, "and their future generations will never forget the selfless assistance of the Soviet people and Soviet servicemen, who are helping us defend the gains of the April revolution and build a new life."

One by one the servicemen who had distinguished themselves--Captain I. Kozachevskiy, and Privates Yu. Popkov, V. Yakovlev, S. Rezhichenko, and S. Slavgorodskiy--stepped from the line. Comrade B. Karmal presented them with certificates of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium awarded to them for exemplary fulfillment of international duty in defense of the gains of the April Revolution and for consolidation of the friendship between the Afghan and the Soviet peoples and in connection with the 20th anniversary of the PDPA.

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DRA CONTINGENT CELEBRATES NEW YEAR

PM081137 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 85 Second Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Skrizhalin: "At the Salang Pass"]

[Text] Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan--It is impossible to predict events at the Salang Pass, where the highest mountain tunnel in the world runs and where traffic safety is ensured by Afghan highway guards and military personnel jointly with Soviet servicemen. There may be an avalanche, nor can it be ruled out that the dushmans may raid the position....

But New Year is New Year, and people here were naturally looking forward to it impatiently and were preparing for it.

The Afghans had heard that for Soviet people a holiday without a fir tree is not a holiday. Fir trees do not grow here, and so the Afghan friends offered the Soviet servicemen several evergreen shrubs as a gift. There were enough of them for all subunits.

Early in the morning, reports started arriving from the traffic control positions and stations: The cake has been baked. The subunits along the highway are self-supporting to such an extent that they even bake their own bread in portable field ovens. Special flour for the cakes was delivered to all sections before the holiday. The route, touching all positions, was covered by three mobile stores which pleased people with their excellent selection of goods. The rest was left to the imagination of military cooks.

And so, all was ready to greet the New Year. Grandfather Frost and his Snow Maiden, riding on two armored personnel carriers, arrived at the subunit in the evening. The first to be greeted by them were the fellow-servicemen of political worker Senior Lieutenant Viktor Burdin. Afterward the armored vehicles made their way into the tunnel, which was guarded on New Year's Eve by a patrol headed by Ensign Vasiliy Yaroshevskiy, commander of the advance detachment, and his right hand, Junior Sergeant Sergey Gamazanov.

While this night trip along the Salang Pass may have seemed somewhat eerie and even romantic to the Snow Maiden--Lyudmila Sakhan, sales attendant at the highest mountain store here--her senior companion Captain Nikolay Breyev felt as if he was on duty both as Grandfather Frost and as company commander. Instead of the staff traditionally carried on this occasion, a submachine gun was firmly gripped in the officer's hand, as usual.

Following the tunnel patrol, it was the turn of Senior Lieutenant Viktor Bolshoy, bearer of the "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Order, 3d Class, to receive New Year greetings. What was he thinking of at that moment? He was most probably recalling the unforgettable escort of a convoy under fire when he, commanding a company, skillfully maneuvered the highway security forces and prevented the insurgents from attacking the convoy.

The most memorable event of last year for Junior Sergeant Viktor Shcherbatyuk was his admission to the ranks of the CPSU here, at the mountain top. He also recalled how a week beforehand, on a night just like tonight, he was in charge of the patrol and organized the repulse of an attack by dushmans.

Grandfather Frost and his Snow Maiden delivered modest gifts and sincere greetings to Lieutenant Dzhumagal Keremzhanov, Ensign Sergey Shabanov, Junior Sergeant Vyacheslav Borusho, Private Bakhiter Shaylulayev.... It is thanks to their selflessness, courage, and loyalty to military duty that the highway of life, whose main link is the Salang Pass, exists and functions.

This is how things were at the Salang Pass at a time when, back at home, people seated around festive tables greeted one another on the New Year. And everyone here was hoping--no, they were firmly convinced--that at that moment their mothers, fathers, wives, brides-to-be, brothers, sisters, and friends were raising the first glass to them, the Soviet soldiers standing at their responsible combat post on this New Year's Eve.

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AFGHANISTAN

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON PROGRESS IN DRA'S BADAKHSHAN

LD131317 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Jan 85

[TASS Kabul correspondent Andrey Grishnov report: "In Mountainous Badakhshan"]

[Text] The history of Badakhshan is the history of the struggle of its people for freedom and independence. And this struggle goes on today, only now it is against bands of counterrevolutionaries sent in by imperialists, reactionaries and hegemonists. Most of the inhabitants of the border districts of the province have taken up arms to defend the gains of the national democratic revolution.

During the rule of the Nadir dynasty the people of this mountainous province lived in poverty, deprived of the most elementary conveniences. Today, when the Badakhshan peasants have received land and water from the state, when electricity has come to them, when the inhabitants have learned for the first time what it is to labor on one's own land, they are determined that the clock should not be turned back.

In the 6 years of the revolution great changes have taken place in the life of the people. There are now more than 3,000 party activists in the province of Badakhshan. A substantial number of the local inhabitants are members of peasant committees. In the recent past the inhabitants of Badakhshan used mainly kerosene for lighting and cooking. In 1983 the Feyzabad power-plant produced its first energy. Last year a kindergarten and nursery were built there.

One of the major districts in the province is the district of Zebak, which has a long border with Pakistan. The district is a constant target for attacks by bands of counterrevolutionaries, trying to penetrate the republic from Pakistan, to supply the local counterrevolutionaries with weapons. But standing guard over the district's peace and tranquility are numerous detachments of tribal militias and detachments for the defense of the revolution and for self-defense.

The combined efforts of the security forces and the local population led 1 year ago to the annihilation of several bands, including one large one numbering 700 men; and to the capture of a large consignment of weapons, made in the United States, China and Britain, which was being brought in from Pakistan.

In the district of Zebak three peasant cooperatives and 16 literacy courses have been set up. The district's inhabitants are voluntarily working on the construction of various public buildings.

Work does not stand still in other districts of the province either. The population of Badakhshan is full of optimism for tomorrow. They are confident that no forces will be able to stop the process of Afghanistan's progressive development. The Afghan people, having once chosen the path of progress and democracy, are confidently marching ahead.

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AFGHANISTAN

LIEUTENANT RETURNS TO DUTY AFTER LOSS OF LEG

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 16 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by special BELTA correspondents V. Levin and V. Khachirashvili, Grodno: "He Wears the Red Star, Discharging International Duty"]

[Text] He thought a long time before he finally decided to write this letter. He asked himself: "Do I really have the right to take a personal question like this to such an extraordinarily busy man?" He weighed the pros and cons over and over again. But since he was never able to arrive at any clear-cut answer one way or the other, he finally put aside all his doubts one day, sat down at his desk and in a neat, precise hand on a clean sheet of paper he began:

"My name is S. V. Kamenetskiy ...."

But then he stopped. What did he have to tell the USSR Minister of Defense if the entire story of his 23 years could be reduced to just a few short lines: "I was born, I went to school, I served in the army ...."

He was born in fact in Grodno. As a schoolboy he went on field trips to sites of historic military significance, and there are no small number of such sites along the Nieman. The first battles the frontier guards fought, the dense forests along the Nieman which harbored the partisans, the Karbyshevsky emplacements, the roads through the area bringing liberation and victory. This is all history for Sergey. Not a history he learned from books, though. This is a living history, because his grandfather, who fought in the war, told him a lot about it. The grandson then developed into a good pathfinder so he could find out more on his own about what military courage means. No sooner had he grown into adolescence than he made his decision—he entered the Suvorov school in Minsk.

Two years ago Sergey graduated from Higher Combined-Arms Command School in Baku. His shoulders now bore not only his new lieutenant's shoulder boards, but along with them a new responsibility, responsibility for the people under his command. The platoon commander doesn't command too many people, that's true, but he is still responsible for the fate of each and every one.

The subunit to which Sergey had been assigned had been entrusted with the task of rendering international assistance to the Afghan people. He now recalled the stories his grandfather had told him about how the youngsters back in the 1930's

envied the internationalists fighting fascism in Spain. Underage stowaways had to be pulled from the holds of ships carrying grain and clothing to the patriots of the Estremadura and Guadalajara.

...His platoon would escort convoys carrying food, clothing and footwear into Afghan villages. Soldiers would help workers put up electric power lines and schools. As Komsomol secretary, Sergey would meet with local activists of the Afghan Komsomol.

The war here lurked around every bend, over every pass, behind every ridge of mountains. But waging this war is not the Afghan people but rather Dushman who sell themselves for American dollars. They are trained and armed to the teeth in training centers in Pakistan and then sent across the border. The "Dukhi," as they are contemptuously referred to here, come in and level entire villages, kill all the inhabitants, burn schools, murder party activists. Everything Sergey had read about the Civil War, the counterrevolution and the Basmachi he saw here with his own eyes. And he now understood with his own heart and mind the true meaning of the phrase "international duty."

Sergey recalled his first run-in with a Dushman band down to the smallest detail. His subunit was escorting a grain convoy. Neither the Afghans nor our men were aware that the Dushman had set up an assembly and transport terminal point here. The bandits opened fire first, because they had already had a chance to zero in on the convoy.

The "Dukhi" had taken cover off to the side, but our men could find positions only in an open area by the side of the road. They held off the attack for three hours. Nikolay Kolomytskiy was first to rush to the assault, the others following his lead. They wiped out this wasp nest of "Dukhi" ....

At the end of last year, when Sergey Kamenetskiy's subunit was conducting an exercise in the mountains together with personnel of the army of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, they were foully attacked by a band of Dushman, who then disappeared. It seemed that on this occasion the "Dukhi" were going to slip the noose. It was as if they had fallen through the earth. But then it so happened that Kamenetskiy and Private Sergey Sergeyev stumbled upon a spring.

Now in Afghanistan, water means life. So somewhere in the vicinity there had to be some human habitation. They soon found it. Sergeyev spotted the place and reported back.

"Comrade lieutenant, I found maps, diagrams showing water sources, supply depots, weapons caches ...."

It turned out that they had discovered the headquarters of an important Dushman band. They reported this to the Afghan army command, and the band was soon wiped out. Sergey Kamenetskiy was now awarded his first Order of the Red Star.

He received his second one a little later. That was this past February.

"We had made our way around one hill, then another," Sergey recalls, "and had just started to make our way up to some higher ground when we ran into an ambush.

Then the firing began. I radioed the situation to the commander, who then ordered us to withdraw. I drew the "Dukhi" fire in my direction to give my men a chance to find cover. Then there was an explosion. I realized I was down and couldn't get up. At that point the "Dukhi" started down the mountain to take me prisoner. Sergeant Nikolay Chentsov came running up about then. He bandaged me up right quick and helped me to my feet. I was able to travel by leaning on his shoulder.

"What about the leg?" I ask.

"You'll still be able to dance at my wedding, comrade senior lieutenant."

That's the last thing Kamenetskiy heard. He lost consciousness because he had lost so much blood. When he regained consciousness he was in the medical battalion. He opened his eyes and saw Chentsov, who had saved him.

"What about that wedding, Kolya?"

"We'll be dancing, and not too long from now."

"My leg hurts," Sergey said.

Kamenetskiy looked down at his legs. The right one was gone.

During the several months Sergey had to spend in the hospital there was nothing for him to do but think and recuperate. And the only thing he could think about was the fact that he had spent his whole life in preparation for service in the army, but the way things had turned out he wouldn't be able to serve any longer. Where was the justice here?

And now he was writing to the Minister of Defense about all this. He received a prompt reply. With it came written orders upon full recuperation to report for new duty at the Grodno military commissariat.

He would stay in the army, live at home and serve in his home town. He wore two orders on his chest and three stars on his shoulder boards. And he had a great life ahead of him.

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AFGHANISTAN

ARMY MEDICS, DRIVERS AT WORK IN AFGHAN MOUNTAINS

LD301909 Moscow World Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Unidentified correspondent's report on visits to mountain villages in Afghanistan]

[Excerpts] Soviet medical men have plenty of work in Afghanistan. Many mass diseases continue to sweep through the country, and there are cases when the bandits poison the wells and springs and many people suffer from that. Patients from the whole neighborhood come to see the Soviet doctors, and they firmly believe that Soviet doctors will help them to get well.

There is also the work for the drivers and for those who look after safety on the mountain roads. One of them is Major Krasenkov; he said that the conditions on mountain roads are very hard. The climate of Afghanistan required great efforts for the men looking after the roads, especially in the winter-time. In the mountain pass we are in charge of, continued Major Krasenkov, there are often snowdrifts and avalanches. Once the road was covered with a thick layer of snow and soldiers, braving all the difficulties, worked all night clearing the road and rescuing the trucks from the snow trap. In the morning the trucks, with goods so necessary for the Afghan people, continued on their journey.

The Soviet soldiers looking after the roads in Afghanistan are doing difficult work. Sometimes they have to take up arms to drive the bandits away and ensure the safety of the passengers and cargo. But no matter what the hardships are, said Major Krasenkov, they are always ready to come to the assistance of their Afghan friends.

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